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Lords endorse mental girl's sterilization

'Pregnancy a disaster' ruling sets precedent

By Frances Gibb and Jill Sherman

The House of Lords gave the go-ahead, yesterday, for Jeanette, the girl aged 17 with a mental age of five, to be sterilized to save her from the "unmitigated disaster of pregnancy".

In a ground-breaking ruling the five law lords led by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, unanimously rejected an appeal by the Official Solicitor acting for the girl.

"It is clear beyond argument that for her pregnancy would be an unmitigated disaster. The only question is how she may best be protected against it," Lord Bridge of Harwich said.

The "overwhelming evidence" pointed to an operation, by closing the fallopian tubes, which should now be performed without further delay.

The right of a woman to give birth was a basic human right, but the mental and physical handicaps of the girl rendered her incapable of ever exercising that right or enjoying that privilege, Lord Bridge said.

Only concern had been with her welfare, he said.

"I hope now that this young person and her family can be left out of the glare of the publicity to live their fabled lives."

Jeanette is likely to continue to live in the mixed hostel during the week and return to her mother's home for the occasional weekend.

The ruling was warmly welcomed by Mr Cecil Emmerson, solicitor for the girl's mother. "It is a considerable relief to all concerned, particularly her mother."

In recent weeks while the appeal was pending the girl had become "increasingly difficult and given cause for concern so that the earlier the appeal was heard the better for the child; and any delay has proved a considerable burden."

Those with care for the girl are believed to have grown worried that she is already displaying symptoms of pregnancy but doctors have ruled this out and the symptoms are thought to be side-effects of drugs.

In the only other cited case, in 1976 Mrs Justice Heilbrunn refused a sterilization because it involved the deprivation of a basic human right.

But Lord Hailsham said yesterday that right was only such when reproduction was the result of informed choice.

To talk of the "basic right" to reproduce in the case of someone who could not understand the link between sexual intercourse and child-birth, the nature of pregnancy, what was involved in delivery, could not form maternal instincts or care for a child "appears to part company with reality."

The girl did not desire children and if she were to have a child she could not understand what was happening to her; she would be "terrified, distressed and extremely violent during normal labour" and the child would probably have to be delivered by Caesarean section.

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Six killed as plane hits boat

By Harvey Elliott

The pilot of a light aircraft, probably disoriented in low cloud and with no horizon to focus on, yesterday crashed at more than 120mph on to a fishing boat off the Isle of Wight. The pilot, his wife and daughter, and at least three people on the boat were killed.

The single-engine Cessna 172 had taken off from Antwerp in Belgium after filing a flight plan for Exeter.

The pilot had to keep below areas governed by national air traffic controllers and for much of the time was in cloud which came almost to sea level.

Along the British coast he called up Southampton air traffic controllers and asked permission to pass through their area. The controllers asked him to identify himself by making turns so they could ensure they were following the right aircraft.

A retired teacher, Mr David Colquhoun, who was cruising on his yacht in the Solent, saw what happened. "I heard the noise of an aircraft engine. It was very low and very loud. It came down, bounced on to the water and into the yacht. The whole lot just disintegrated."

Mr Eric Bramfit, chairman of the council's social services committee, said the dismissal of the appeal "has confirmed in every respect that we have done what we thought was right."

Jeanette had been in the care of the council since she was four and the council's

Share prices on Wall Street soared last night as hopes grew that talks between President Reagan and Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister of Japan, would settle the trade dispute between the two countries.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 42 points near the close at 2,295.45 and US bonds rose strongly.

White House officials said Mr Nakasone revealed he had ordered a reduction in Japanese interest rates to help stabilize the dollar.

The optimism in New York was matched in the London money markets, where there are hopes of another early reduction in bank base rates.

The pound rose again, shattering off Tuesday's reduction in base rates to 9 1/2 per cent. The sterling index rose by 0.2 to 73.2, above the level at which the Bank of England sanctioned the base-rate cut.

Money market interest rates fell to a level just above that consistent with base rates of 9 per cent, as the pound headed towards the key DM3 level against the mark.

Orchestra strike distresses Toyah

By Ruth Gledhill

Cabaret star Toyah Wilcox was close to tears last night as she prepared to go on stage without an orchestra for the second night running.

As the audience waited outside the Strand Theatre in the West End to hear whether the show would go on, musicians were still talking with management about the strike which has already cost the theatre more than £8,000.

Miss Wilcox, who plays the Sally Bowles character in the £1 1/2 million hit musical, said: "I was very nervous when I went on without an orchestra. Considering everything, it was a magical show." Her co-star James Dondos, stepping in for Wayne Sleep in his first big break, added: "It is desperately disappointing for me."

Mr Nigel Everett, the theatre manager, said the show was booked until October 31. It has about £80,000 worth of advance bookings.

As the orchestra, leaders of the Musicians' Union and the management company Porter Young met to try to settle the

dispute, sacked members of the orchestra denied they had been at fault.

● New association: Discontent with the Musicians' Union is not confined to the management of Cabaret.

Growing dissatisfaction with the union has prompted several London orchestral players to create a separate association. The Guild of Professional Musicians.

Man at the centre, page 2

ing the murdered Conservative MP, Mr Airey Neave.

He is to speak at a May Day rally about a report published in the *New Statesman* in February 1981, that just before the 1979 general election Mr Neave discussed with former security service agents plans for an undercover "army of resistance" in case of a Labour victory.

Mr Benn said yesterday that at the time he dismissed the allegation about a plot to assassinate him and had not made any statement about it since. But in the light of the new allegations about an MI5 plot he would be referring to it in his speech.

Jenkins challenge on MI5 inquiry

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Jenkins, the former Labour Home Secretary, yesterday challenged Mrs Thatcher's refusal to consider an investigation into renewed allegations of an MI5 plot to bring down the Wilson Government. He said her apparent suggestion that the activities could not be inquired into by a later government was extraordinary.

As Mrs Thatcher again blocked attempts to draw her into the controversy over the secret services, it was disclosed that Mr Tony Benn, the former Labour Cabinet minister, is planning to raise allegations tomorrow about a plot to assassinate him invol-

ving the murdered Conservative MP, Mr Airey Neave.

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Completion of all outstanding work

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He dismissed suggestions that the refitted liner was capable of taking the Blue Riband for fastest Atlantic crossing. That will remain the property of the *Liner United States* which, say seamen, had the guts shaken out of her by the effort.

On the plus side for the new QE2 vibration levels after the refit are significantly lower.

Mr Lambert was unimpressed. He intended photographing all the shambles on the ship and sending the pictures to Cunard along with his claim for compensation.

Midland's 'yuppie' account

By Peter Gartland

Both Lloyds Bank and the National Westminster Bank appear to have been caught out by Midland Bank's plan announced yesterday to launch an interest-bearing current account aimed at customers in the 25-45 age bracket from May 11.

The Midland's Vector account will be available for a monthly fee of £10. In addition to the interest element (currently 5 per cent p.a.), there will be an interest-free £250 overdraft facility.

Vector account holders will also be able to have surplus money transferred to a Vector savings account paying 6.5 per cent net.

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QE2's reputation bitten by teething troubles

From Bryan Applebyard on board the QE2

Temperatures were running high on the QE2 on its first day out from Southampton because of widespread teething troubles after the liner's £100 million refit in Germany.

Some passengers on the voyage to New York found themselves without cabins after a flood, arising from a leakage in the fresh water system, left many rooms unusable.

At one point even the Captain, Lawrence Portet, and his wife were without a room as staff struggled to reallocate people within the ship.

On board sports facilities and swimming pools were not functioning.

Ice cream was not available in the best restaurant, and you could not even get a suit pressed due to a temperature problem in the valet service.

Paul and Cindy Lambert from Massachusetts, who were celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary on the cruise, found the room they had been allocated completely bare with an oil-stained carpet and no furniture.

They, along with a group of other passengers, tried to demand the ship did not leave the port until they were all found decent rooms. Mr Lambert said: "I keep trying not to remember that this is costing me a thousand dollars a day. Cunard's reputation has been lost at sea."

Cunard chairman, Mr Alan Ken-

edy, who is also on the voyage, explained the main problem had been the additional week of sea trials insisted on by the British authorities after the refit. This unexpected delay had meant key areas of the ship could not be fully finished.

"We could have cancelled this first voyage," he said, "but at that late stage it would have caused people even more problems with return flights booked and so on."

Mr Kennedy said about 80 German shipyard workers were working on the ship during the voyage, and he expected most of the problems with the hotel side of the operation to be solved within four to five days.

Ferry's officer blamed for open bow door

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The chief officer of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* was named yesterday as the man who should have checked that the bow doors of the ferry were closed before it sailed.

Mr Paul Morter, the second officer, told the inquiry into the sinking of the ferry that the responsibility lay with Mr Leslie Sable.

However, Mr Justice Sheen, who is conducting the inquiry, gave a warning that there may be a conflict of evidence when Mr Sable testifies, possibly on Tuesday.

Mr Morter's evidence painted a picture of such flexible and ad hoc working arrangements on the car deck that confusion seemed only too likely to have arisen. He said there was no set procedure for deciding who would carry out the responsibilities of loading officer, which included ensuring that the bow and stern doors were closed.

He described how he had taken over the supervision of the loading of the vehicles from Mr Sable who then left the car deck. He was asked: "Did you expect to see him again before departure?" to which Mr Morter replied "No."

"So as you understood it you were the officer on the car deck responsible for loading?" he was asked.

"Yes," Mr Morter said.

However, shortly before loading was completed Mr Sable returned to the vehicle deck and, according to Mr Morter, took over from him, though they did not at that stage speak to each other.

"I was aware of the situation that he had taken over loading the deck. He was in communication with the shore by radio and he was directing the traffic, and was

instructing the crew on the stowage of vehicles."

Mr Morter said that he then just stood back and watched. He admitted that he had been relieved, though surprised, by Mr Sable's return because the loading had been running late and he was having trouble with those controlling the loading from the shore.

It was unusual, he said, to be relieved of his responsibilities on the car deck within a few minutes of sailing. Mr Morter said there was no doubt that he had been

Labour ignores council leader's 'racist' challenge

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Labour Party leaders yesterday shrugged off the action by a prominent council leader who repeated the "racist" claim that led to the suspension of Miss Sharon Atkin as its parliamentary candidate in Nottingham East.

Miss Linda Bellos, the Labour leader of Lambeth council in London and another black section's activist, deliberately courted disciplinary action with remarks about Miss Atkin on the *Today* programme on BBC radio.

She said: "It is not a matter, it seems to me, of whether she repeats the allegation that the Labour Party is racist because I do repeat that the Labour Party is racist."

"I do not think that the Labour Party is worse than any other institution in this country. It does have within it practices and procedures and even individuals who adhere to and practice racism."

It was a clear challenge to the authority of the party leadership.

But Labour's business managers are far less worried about the creditable comments from Miss Bellos than they are about an approved parliamentary candidate saying such things. They have no plans to take disciplinary action and give her the further publicity for which they believe she craves.

Miss Bellos complained

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NEWS SUMMARY

College left £1m by Fellow's wife

Magdalene College, Cambridge has been left more than £1 million by Mrs Dorothy Richards, the widow of J.A. Richards, the author and critic who was a Fellow of the college for more than 50 years.

Mr Paul Murphy, the college bursar, said yesterday: "The money won't lead to a life of beer and skittles but it will enable us to improve our research facilities and undergraduate accommodation."

Mrs Richards died last September aged 93. Her husband died in 1979.

● Oxford University's next vice-chancellor is to be Sir Richard Southwood, aged 55, a zoologist and Fellow of Merton College. He will succeed Sir Patrick Neill, QC, in 1989.

Diary, page 14

Leanne inquest

An inquest into the death of stablegirl Leanne Scott, aged 17, of Gidding Road, Sawtry, Cambridgeshire, was opened and adjourned in Huntingdon yesterday.

Evidence of identification was given by the family.

Dr Miriam Hackman, earlier Colin Hill, aged 8, of Washington Road, Folsworth, who is charged with Leanne's murder, was remanded in custody by Huntingdon magistrates for the third time.

Murder charge

A mother was remanded in custody yesterday charged with murdering her daughter, aged one, and causing grievous bodily harm to a boy aged 18 months.

Mrs Hilary Ball, aged 35, of East Gristead, West Sussex, appeared before magistrates at Haywards Heath accused of drowning Claire Ball and stabbing the boy at her home. An order was made banning publication of the boy's name.

£1.4m shipyard sale

Smith's Dock, the last shipyard on the River Tees, was sold by British Shipbuilders yesterday for £1.4 million to the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority.

The deal comes after the collapse of a £2.5 million bid by an Arab-American consortium which hoped to reopen the yard and create 2,000 jobs. Only 200 jobs will result from the sale to the port authority, which plans to lease one-third of the 55-acre docks to British Telecom for cable ship servicing. The shipyard closed three months ago with the loss of 1,300 jobs.

Doctor loses plea

Dr Sidney Gee, the Harley Street slitting specialist, is expected to face disciplinary proceedings by the General Medical Council in July after a House of Lords ruling.

Five law lords yesterday rejected an appeal by Dr Gee over the way the council had drawn up the charge of serious professional misconduct, and that to go ahead with disciplinary proceedings would be in breach of the rules.

Reprieve for Tamil

A Tamil supporter who has taken sanctuary in a church to avoid being deported to Sri Lanka was given a temporary reprieve by a judge in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Nolan gave Viraj Mendis, aged 31, leave to challenge a deportation order made last December.

Mr Mendis has been living at the Church of Ascension in Hulme, Manchester, since the order was made. He fears that his support for the Tamils will bring him persecution and possible death if he is sent back to Sri Lanka.

US sales push up output of Range Rover

Production of the £20,000 Range Rover will hit 520 a week in June at Land Rover's Solihull plant, a 60 per cent boost in output compared with a year ago (Our Motoring Correspondent writes).

Within two months production will have reached the rate of 24,000 a year, compared with the previous year's record of 15,500.

In March the Range Rover was launched in the American market and the company is already struggling to meet demand. One Los Angeles dealer has orders for 75 of the vehicles.

Demand for the Range Rover is also improving on the continent. Sales in Spain are up 50 per cent in the first quarter of 1987 and are expected to double to 700 this year and double again in 1988. In France and Italy, where the recently introduced diesel models have sold well, the delivery time has stretched to five months.

IRA leaders planned attack

The Provisional IRA's car bomb attack which killed Northern Ireland's second most senior judge was a specially planned operation by the organization's general headquarters staff.

Lord Justice Sir Maurice Gibson and his wife, Cecily, were the most important targets in the recent upsurge of Provisional IRA violence which the terrorists claim has "for the first time in a long, long time put the IRA out in front".

In a leading article, yesterday's issue of *Republic*, published in Dublin, hints that the Provisionals were able to launch their attack because of the way in which the judge booked his travel plans using his name and title.

It says that the visit by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to the border earlier this week was a

Thatcher's closer interest in security service

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Regular contact between the Prime Minister and the heads of M15 and M16 and a change in the style of management have helped greatly to improve the working relationship between Number 10 and the intelligence services, according to senior Whitehall sources yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is under increasing political pressure to order an inquiry into the activities of M15 in the 1970s, arising from the allegations by Mr Peter

Wright, the former M15 officer, of a conspiracy against the Wilson government.

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx admitted this week that he had seen very little of the men who ran M15 and M16.

Sources yesterday confirmed that Mrs Thatcher took a close personal interest in British intelligence operations and was frequently in touch with the heads of intelligence.

Mrs Thatcher has taken a number of crucial steps to ensure that she retains satisfactory control.

She chose Sir Antony Duff to be the director general of M15 because she had come to respect his judgement while he was chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee in the Cabinet Office.

She had appointed him to the JIC job in 1983, after criticism of the lack of intelligence warning prior to the invasion of the Falklands. Sir Antony was also an outsider — a diplomat, not an M15 career man.

Mrs Thatcher asked him to set up an internal grievance

system so that junior and middle-ranking officers could discuss their problems. This followed the failure of senior M15 officers to detect the drinking habits of Michael Bettaney, the middle-ranking M15 officer who tried to spy for the Russians. This new procedure has not yet been implemented.

The then head of M16, Sir Colin Figures, due for retirement, was replaced in 1983 by Sir Christopher Curwen, knighted last year, who had been with M16 since 1952. It is understood that Sir Chris-

topher was supported by Sir Antony.

Under the Maxwell Fyfe directive, issued in 1952 by the then Home Secretary, ministers "do not concern themselves with the detailed information which may be obtained by the security service in particular cases, but are furnished with such information only as may be necessary for the determination of any issue on which guidance is sought".

However Mrs Thatcher has been forced to demand de-

tailed background to a number of cases.

She has had to make full statements about Anthony Blunt, the long-standing Soviet spy, Geoffrey Prime, who worked for the Russians inside CICO and Michael Bettaney, the M15 officer.

She has also had to check with her intelligence chiefs before rejecting spying allegations made against Sir Roger Hollis, the former head of M15, Mr Graham Mitchell, his deputy, Lord Rothschild and Sir Maurice Oldfield, the former head of M16.

Labour says crime has soared under Thatcher

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Labour Party claimed yesterday that half the population of Britain would have become victims of crime under Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government by the time of the general election.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the party's home affairs spokesman, who was launching a document on crime prevention, *Protecting Our People*, said: "By the time of the general election, the 25 million crime victims of the Thatcher years will have been robbed, or mugged or burgled."

He claimed that since 1978, the last year of the Labour government:

- Total crime had risen by 49 per cent.
- Crimes of violence against the person had increased by 46 per cent.
- Burglaries were up by 61 per cent.
- Thefts had increased by 37 per cent.
- Fraud and forgery were up by 21 per cent.
- Criminal damage, including vandalism, had risen by 85 per cent.

With crime costing £10,000 million a year, there had been more 4,300,000 reported offences during last year, Mr Kaufman said. "We have a situation in which a crime is being committed every seven seconds of the day right round the clock."

He said a Labour government would put more bobbies on the beat, increase victim support and compensation, and enlarge crime prevention measures.

Labour also proposes to

reduce substantially the powers of chief constables and senior police officers. "It is unacceptable that chief constables, alone among all senior public employees including generals in the armed forces, are not accountable to elected representatives."

"Our aim is to ensure that locally elected representatives decide the nature of policing in their area within the minimum standards and guidelines set down by Parliament."

Labour says it will give locally elected police authorities in all areas, including London, "statutory responsibility on determining the policing policies, priorities and methods of their force."

"The next Labour government will remove non-elected magistrates (currently one third of the membership) from police committees since they are not accountable to the public and, as members of the judiciary should be seen to be independent from the police."

Police authorities would be given powers to make the police show that they upheld the law without favour towards, or prejudice against, any individual or section of the community and to maintain "minimum standards of policing."

They would also ensure that the composition of police forces was representative of the composition of the local population.

Mr Kaufman also said that a video link between prisons and courts could be introduced by a Labour government to save police officers from time-consuming escort duty.



Mr Mohammed Aslam, who was chosen as Labour parliamentary candidate for Nottingham East, to replace Miss Sharon Atkin, a black sections supporter.

Attempt to oust new candidate

By Craig Seton

The left-dominated executive of the Nottingham East Labour Party was last night considering a move to oust the new parliamentary candidate imposed on it a day earlier by the national party.

Sources in the local party said that at its special meeting last night the executive was considering a motion of no confidence in Mr Mohammed Aslam, a Nottingham City councillor, who was appointed as the new candidate to replace Miss Sharon Atkin, the black activist.

Miss Atkin was dropped as the constituency's Labour candidate by the National Executive because of her outspoken remarks about black sections.

Although the local party executive was expected to reaffirm its support for Miss Atkin, activists have apparently accepted that they cannot get her reinstated.

Instead they were likely to consider appealing to the National Executive for permission to select another candidate of their own choosing.

The executive members are known to be furious at the appointment of Mr Aslam because of his reputation as a campaigner against black sections. One executive member said that the only issue to be resolved at last night's meeting was the executive's decision whether or not to support Mr Aslam.

Mr Peter Coleman, the party's regional organizer, attended the meeting of the executive committee last night to prepare a report for the party's leadership.

Regional Labour party officials believe that only a few hard-left party members will shun Mr Aslam and they dismiss suggestions that a new party structure would have to be built in time for the general election. The seat is held by the Conservatives with a majority of 1,464.

Man at the centre of the union stage

By Tim Jones

The Musicians' Union was last night hoping to involve the arbitration service, Acas, in the dispute which led to dancers and singers at the Strand Theatre production of *Cabaret* performing without musical accompaniment.

The dispute, which involves allegations of excessive drinking and undisciplined behaviour, brings into confrontation a left-leaning union at the forefront of the pressures inherent in a high risk capital venture.

But other pressures and politics make the dispute at the London theatre a mirror image of the tensions which permeate the whole music industry.

For most of yesterday, the union's general secretary, Mr John Morton, was in talks with Mr Bernard Parris, branch secretary for central London, discussing the Strand dispute.

Mr Morton is not a nationally known figure but when it comes to the fine art of hammering out agreements, he is one of the foremost union negotiators in Britain.

In spite of the recently-amended rule which stated that only unions with more than 100,000 members could have a seat on the General Council of the TUC, he has held his seat for many years because of the lobbying of the big unions on his behalf.

This is not because of an excessive fondness of music on their part but because they recognize Mr Morton as a heavyweight intellectual apart from being internationally recognized as a world authority on the intricacies of copyright, he is regarded as a level-headed pragmatist.

That his union is affiliated to the Labour Party, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament also helps his credentials as a member of the Labour Party.

Although he plays the

piano, Mr Morton was never a full time professional musician. Most of his managerial and union skills were acquired when he was a lecturer in industrial relations at the Solihull College of Further Education, West Midlands.

Now at the age of 62, he finds himself in control of a union which has only a third of its 38,000 members in full-time occupation. The majority do other jobs by day and pursue their musical careers by night.

At the top end of the profession, musicians in a West End show such as *Time* can expect to earn up to £700 a week, although the average for inner London theatre-land is nearer £300.

Although the money for the West End is high, fewer than 400 musicians can expect to find employment there, and it is a career without security, holiday pay or pension.

In London, a musician engaged in four sessions a week is entitled to £122 compared with £111 for the provinces.

The inherent job insecurity helps to account for the jealously guarded closed shop which operates by custom and practice.

Mr Brian Blain, the music promotion officer for the union, said yesterday that any member joining an orchestra would be expected to join the union or risk being boycotted by the other members.



Mr Morton: foremost at the negotiating table.

Steel firms harness ancient secrets

By Robert Matthews

A precision casting technique developed in Britain which could generate a billion-pound market world-wide is likely to be one of the first innovations to benefit from the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology planned by the Government.

The process, the result of more than a decade of development by the Steel Casting Research and Trade Association of Sheffield, could rejuvenate Britain's rapidly-declining foundry industry.

It is based on the "lost wax" process, used by the ancient Egyptians to make jewellery and used by car and aircraft manufacturers to make exceptionally precise castings of complex parts. However, the new "lost foam" technique is faster, far cheaper and can be used to mass produce components.

Instead of wax, the technique uses polystyrene to make an exact replica of, for example, a car engine component. Surrounded and filled with sand, this replica vaporizes on contact with the molten metal, which then takes its place.

Very little extra work has to be done on the castings formed, and scores of precisely-cast components can be made simultaneously far cheaper than the traditional process. Although simple in principle, the "lost foam" technique has proved difficult to exploit.

Auto Alloy, of Alfreton, near Derby, is negotiating with companies in the United States and Australia about joint ventures. Mr David Fletcher, director of corporate affairs, said that Mitsubishi, of Japan, wanted to buy the company to get the technology.

Mr Fletcher said that Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce and one of the driving forces behind the proposed technology exploitation centre, has expressed great interest and wants the company to become involved in the plans to set up the centre.

Oxford beats US chess champions

The Oxford chess team beat Chicago by 6½ points to 3½ in the challenge match to the university champions and the United States Intercollegiate champions at Christ Church, Oxford (Raymond Keene writes).

Results (Oxford names first):

- First round: C McNab (Queen's College) beat E Schiller; J Howell (Jesus College) beat K Thomas; N Dickinson (Hertford College) beat E Friedman; M Hazzleton (St Antony's) beat W Maddox; Dr W Giam (Balliol College) beat J Goldman.

Second round: C McNab (Queen's College) beat E Schiller; M Cuthbert (Edmond Hall) drew with K Thomas; D Pugh (Exeter College) lost to E Friedman; W Pritchett (Christ Church) lost to W Maddox; R Branbury (Christ Church) lost to J Goldman.

Change of Interest Rate.

NEW APPLICANTS.

The rate of interest charged for loans on private dwellings for owner-occupation, whatever the size of the loan, is now: Repayment 11.25% - Typical APR 12.1%.

Endowment 11.25% - Typical APR 11.9%.

EXISTING BORROWERS.

The rate of interest charged to borrowers with Mortgages subject to 7 days' notice will decrease by 1.125% per annum from 1st May 1987. The same percentage decrease will apply to borrowers with mortgages subject to other periods of notice. All borrowers will be advised individually of the effect of this change on their accounts.

INVESTORS.

With effect from 1st May 1987 the adjacent rates of interest will apply to investment accounts both new and existing.

OTHER ACCOUNTS.

Interest rates for Seven Day, Corporate Investments, Special Deposit Accounts, Pension Plans and Additional Voluntary Contributions available on request.

Interest rates on all other accounts are decreased by 1.00% with the exception of SAYE accounts which remain unchanged.

*Where Income Tax is paid at a basic rate of 25%.

	No Rate %	Typical APR %
STERLING ASSET ACCOUNT		
With 0.25% bonus on top		
Annual Interest	7.75 p.a.	10.62
£1,000-£9,999	8.25 p.a.	11.30
£10,000-£24,999	8.50 p.a.	11.64
£25,000 plus		
Monthly Income Option	7.49	10.26
£1,000-£9,999	7.95	10.89
£10,000-£24,999	8.19	11.22
£25,000 plus		
FIVE STAR ACCOUNT		
£500 up to £1,999	6.75 p.a.	9.25
£2,000 up to £4,999	7.00 p.a.	9.59
£5,000 up to £9,999	7.50 p.a.	10.27
£10,000 up to £24,999	7.75 p.a.	10.62
£25,000 plus	8.00 p.a.	10.96
CHEQUE-SAVE ACCOUNT		
Up to £2,499	4.45	6.10
£2,500 up to £9,999	6.88	9.42
£10,000 up to £24,999	7.36	10.08
£25,000 plus	7.85	10.75
HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNT		
	7.75	10.62
SHARE ACCOUNT		
	5.00	6.85

ABBAY NATIONAL

Alliance confident of Southend win

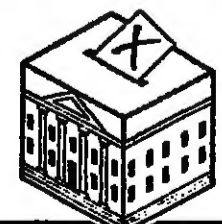
By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

In January a Conservative councillor in Southend, Essex, defected to the Liberal Social Democratic Party Alliance, thereby creating a hung council and ending outright Conservative control of the seaside resort for virtually the first time in its history.

Days later the council's 16 Alliance councillors won from the Conservatives a referendum on a private-sector proposal to build a square-mile artificial island 300 yards offshore which would include 2,500 houses, a marina, golf course, hotel, conference centre and much besides.

Mr Norman Clarke, Conservative leader of the council, argues that the project, "the biggest of its kind in Europe", will cost the council nothing, generate enormous revenue, and create 1,000 jobs.

Mr Nicholas Hall, leader of the Alliance councillors, says he has nothing in principle against the project, but believes that the repercussions on the town of such a project would be so far-reaching that the public should be consulted.



LOCAL ELECTIONS

Whether a referendum was needed, the Alliance had managed to portray itself as the party that listens to the people and that, in a nutshell, is why in next Thursday's local elections the Alliance is confident that it will become the first party other than the Conservatives to win an outright majority in Southend.

The loss of Southend, whose Conservative administration over the past few years has been a flagship for Thatcherite policies, would alarm the Conservative Central Office and the party leaders.

Equally alarmed would be Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who in an imminent general election must defend a

precarious majority in Southend West.

The Conservatives in Southend are proud of their recent record. In 1981 it became the first local authority to privatize its cleaning services, and has subsequently privatized its catering and security services and the town's airport.

The privatizations are no longer a political issue. Mr Clarke says the savings are the equivalent to a 5p rate and explain why the council has during the past two years been able to reduce its rates to the level of 1984 while still spending more on other services.

He cites the artificial island as a classic example of the council's success in bringing private capital into Southend by creating favourable economic and environmental conditions.

Other examples of public/private co-operation in the town include a £50 million shopping centre to be completed later this year with 500 new jobs. Unemployment, although high for the South-east at 13 per cent, is falling.

In spite of this record the Alliance — or, more ac-

curately, the Liberals — has made spectacular progress in the town, and the reasons are obvious.

In 1981 the Liberals targeted Mr Channon's constituency as ripe for plucking, and at the 1983 general election halved his majority to 8,033.

They have embraced every local issue, however trivial, and the result is that of the last 24 district and county council elections in Southend West the Alliance has won all but two.

The degree to which the Alliance progress is based on organization and grassroots toil is evident from the fact that just one of the Southend's 16 Alliance councillors, the Conservative defector, represents a ward in Southend East, the town's other parliamentary constituency.

That is held by Mr Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP, and has not been targeted by the Alliance.

At present the council consists of 19 Conservative councillors, 16 Alliance and four Labour, meaning that the Alliance needs a net gain of four seats next Thursday to take outright control.

Homosex
chopped
burnt Civi

Precautions at

Warder trying

Student says she was
drugged and raped

Fresh fish price

April 30 1987

PARLIAMENT

Scotch
ban
brings
attack

Criticising Japan's discrimination against Scotch whisky exports from the United Kingdom, Lord Williams of Elvel, told peers from the Opposition front bench that the Japanese "are not impressed by British ministerial statements, by visits from British ministers to Tokyo, or by the fact that Scotch whisky is sold in Japan".

The Japanese were impressed only by action, he said during questions about discrimination against Scotch whisky. "Either the Government is to take action or it should be quiet."

Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told him: "It is in our best interests to persuade the Japanese to open their markets."

The Japanese trade minister would be talking today to the Prime Minister, to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and to Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to try to break this deadlock.

Boom town
Harlow

The success of the Government's economic policies had made Harlow a boom town with one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the South of England, Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C) said during questions in the Commons.

"I ask how Mr Hattersley had the nerve to come to my constituency and unveil a plan for 1,000 new jobs, the majority of which would be created by the local authority which, at the moment, is Labour-controlled and is stripping my local industry?"

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, congratulated Mr Hayes on his work in Harlow, which would ensure that he represented the constituency after the next election, against the activities of the local council, which had been consistently anti-business and anti-industry, as had so many Labour councils up and down the country.

Concern over
the Specials

Peers expressed concern in the Lords when they heard that the strength of the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary was down.

The Earl of Caledonia, a Government spokesman, said that the strength had declined from 2,017 at the end of 1977 to 1,490 now.

He denied a suggestion by Lord Mellish (Lab) that nothing was being done about the fall in strength and said that recruitment was being encouraged by posters, newspaper advertisements and public displays. A new recruitment video had nearly been completed.

He believed that the work being given to the Specials was sufficiently challenging and was not dull or uninspiring. In fact, more Specials were resigning to join the regular police force.

Interest in
'profit' pay

More than 3,500 employees have registered with the Inland Revenue that they are interested in profit-related pay, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr Richard Hickmet (Gloucestershire, C) said that the attraction of profit-related pay for those who worked in an industry was that it gave them a share in that industry and in its profits.

Mr Lawson said that he would go further. There were two distinct benefits in that it produced better labour relations and introduced greater flexibility to the pay system.

Cholesterol
'privacy'

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) is to look into claims that a lobby concerned about the future of the trade union movement has been compiling a list of MPs' cholesterol levels.

Mrs Ann Croyd (Cynon Valley, Lab), who named the correspondence as Mr Mike Steele, said that while there ought to be more frequent mobile screening available in the House not only for MPs but others who worked there the result ought to be confidential.

The information ought to be private to MPs and ought not to be used now or in the future by lobby correspondents, she said.

M & S ways
are praised

Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry were meeting chief executives of important companies in London to encourage more of them to follow the good example of Marks and Spencer which had commenced a thoroughly commercial approach with a high level of UK sourcing, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, said during an adjournment debate late on Wednesday on the promotion of British made goods.

Car imports

British car exports to Japan in the 12 months ending in February were worth £24 million, but imports of Japanese cars were worth £317 million, Mr John Burcher, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said in a written reply.

Government
stays silent
on Westland
and MI5

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister refused to be drawn into making any further comment on either the Westland affair or the allegations of an MI5 plot to undermine the Wilson Government when answering questions in the Commons.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP), who was Home Secretary in the Wilson Government, said that he recognized that the Prime Minister was bound to attach considerable importance to the views of Sir James Callaghan on the subject of an MI5 inquiry.

But, on reflection, would she say that the extraordinary constitutional doctrine she had appeared to be propounding on Tuesday that the activities of a permanent government agency, however serious they might be alleged to be, could not be inquired into once there was a change of Government?

Mrs Thatcher replied that she had nothing further to add to the replies she had already given on the subject.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) wanted to know if allegations made in a recent *World in Action* programme about the law officers' letter in the Westland affair were true.

The programme had suggested that the Attorney General (Sir Michael Havers) summoned the Cabinet Secretary (Sir Robert Armstrong) to confront him with the prospect of New Scotland Yard police at No 10 with the DTI unless she agreed to an inquiry.

Mrs Thatcher said that she realized that Mr Dalyell would go on asking these questions, but nothing could conceal the poverty of his policy and she replied further to add on the subject.

Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Dumfries and Galloway, Lab) was one of the eight million viewers who heard the respected reporter James Naughtie (chief political correspondent of *The Guardian*) - (loud laughter) ... Well, he went to the same school as I did ... (renewed laughter) ... who heard Naughtie confirm that the centre of the operation for releasing the Solicitor General's letter was No 10.

Can the Prime Minister therefore tell us why only selective parts of that letter were released? Was it because No 10 considered that Chris Moncrieff's (chief political reporter of the Press Association) shorthand was not good enough to take

down all of it (renewed laughter)?

Mr John Biffen: His source did not go to the same school as I did and I am not responsible for it.

During questions about business for next week, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab), said: Is it not extraordinary that while the Attorney General (Sir Michael Havers) was willing to bring actions against the *London Daily News*, *Evening Standard* and *The Independent*, he has failed to bring action against Independent Television News (ITN), which repeated all the allegations in *The Independent* during its bulletins on Monday at 1pm, 6pm and 10pm.

Would he deny that ministers met and that the Attorney General took the decision to bring no action against ITN because they were worried it would be seen as an attempt to censor ITN?

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, promised to convey to the Attorney General the dissatisfaction that his conduct had incurred.

Mr Tam Dalyell asked that the Attorney General should make a statement saying whether he told the Secretary of the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong, that he would confront him with the police officers from New Scotland Yard if he did not agree to an inquiry.

Mr Biffen said that he would see that the question was put to the Attorney General.

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall North, Lab): There is a great deal of pressure from Opposition MPs for a statement to be made about allegations that up to 30 MI5 officers were involved in a subversive and treacherous, if the Government professes itself in favour of the rule of law and parliamentary democracy, how can he take such a dismissive attitude?

Mr Biffen: The Government would not make any statement about the alleged involvement of MI5 officers in the Westland affair. Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) asked for a debate on MI5 and allegations about its attempt to destabilize the Wilson and Callaghan governments.

"Perhaps it would provide Mr Callaghan with a wonderful opportunity to tell us who was being protected and why."

Mr Biffen referred him to earlier replies.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C): As part of the Labour Party's summer holiday - which I may not get - to get the Bill through in this Parliament, Mr Biffen, I note his full-hearted concern.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C): Will Mr Biffen agree that this Parliament has reached virtually the end of its natural life. (Some shouts of "No".)

Mr Biffen: That does not require a reply from me.

Murray attacks unions Green Paper
as 'based on misrepresentation'

The following report of a Lords debate on the Government's Green Paper, "Trade Unions and their Members", was reported in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

The Green Paper was not based on any analysis of industrial relations or trade unions but on misunderstanding and misrepresentation, Lord Murray of Epping Forest, former general secretary of the TUC, said during the debate.

"In this document we have a collection of second-hand, as it were, pulled from under the counter, only slightly used, put together by some Arthur Daley of the second-hand Green Paper trade."

"What the writers of the Green Paper were concerned with was to throw out the baby with the bathwater, to keep the bathwater of exploitation by unscrupulous employers."

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) opening the debate, said that the Government was seeking views on the future of the trade union movement from all quarters. The debate would enable members of the House to take part in that process.

The document had already been dismissed by the TUC as "a charter of harassment", but he hoped that peers would not take a similar view.

The Green Paper was concerned almost exclusively with the sale of power between the union officers, committees and leaders on the one hand, and the union membership on the other. The object running through the proposals was to restore control to the rank and file members.

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Green Paper was designed to correct misperceptions, by proposing protections for individual union members that would guarantee what they were entitled to expect as members of self-proclaimed democratic, voluntary organizations in a free society.

Lord Murray, from the Opposition front bench, said that the passage of trade union legislation would enable members of the House to take part in that process.

The document had already been dismissed by the TUC as "a charter of harassment", but he hoped that peers would not take a similar view.

tion seemed to have been worked more by the considerations and interests of class than of nation.

It was suggested that the result of the proposals would be to increase the freedom of the individual. On the contrary, the result would be to reduce the opportunity of the employee to be consulted.

"The impression that has been created is that this is a response to a great surge of popular demand from working people. But where is this great surge of demand from working people?"

While holding no brief for Mr Arthur Scargill, the proposals on balloting for union officials was likely to increase support for him among his members. It seemed that the proposals were almost designed to bring the law itself into disrepute.

"The danger of the Government's approach is that it could well provoke an equal and opposite reaction, leading to a new kind of legislation in the House of Lords."

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WHITEHALL THEATRE



Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr Tam Dalyell who failed to persuade Mrs Thatcher to tell them more.

MPs add
to election
pressure

MPs put pressure on the Government in the Commons for an early general election, but were countered by others who urged that legislation, particularly the Criminal Justice Bill, which has taken much parliamentary time, should be completed.

Mr David Alton, the Liberal Chief Whip, chose business questions to urge to Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, that existing business should be completed before dissolution, in particular the Criminal Justice Bill, which had already taken up 36 sittings (the Bill is now being considered by the House of Lords).

It would be an incredible waste of time, he said, if it were not now enacted, whatever the view about its merits.

Mr Biffen declined to comment. Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C): This House has spent a lot of time and trouble passing through the Criminal Justice Bill. Will the Government do all it can to complete this Bill? I am prepared to give up some of my extended summer holiday - which I may not get - to get the Bill through in this Parliament.

Mr Biffen: I note his full-hearted concern.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C): Will Mr Biffen agree that this Parliament has reached virtually the end of its natural life. (Some shouts of "No".)

Mr Biffen: That does not require a reply from me.

Rowdy House senses an
approaching election

MPs were in a rowdy pre-dinner mood during Prime Minister's question time, each noisily cheering their own side and deriding their opponents.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill), attempting to restore order, said that he realized that they were getting close to "an exciting time" (laughter) and Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave nothing away about when she referred to "events which will come about within the next 15 months or so".

Loud laughter from the Labour benches interrupted Mrs Anna McCarthy (Reading, West and Inverclyde, C) when she asked the Prime Minister to confirm the Government's economic performance was one of the success stories that would continue if a Conservative Government was re-elected.

Mrs Thatcher agreed. The recent CBI survey, relating to England, Wales and Scotland, she said, had shown a level of optimism not seen for a very long time. The report of the top 50 companies in Scotland was also excellent and unemployment was now falling.

Mr Philip Oppenheim (Amber Valley, C) said that when the Prime Minister was considering Government policy on local government expenditure she should reflect on the fact that Derbyshire County Council had recently announced a programme of huge spending increases in line with Labour

pledges and then suddenly withdrawn these plans.

Could Mrs Thatcher think of any possible reason or event in the near future which might have influenced that decision (laughter)?

Mrs Thatcher said that Derbyshire was the highest-rated county in England and that was very damaging to business in an area which needed more jobs, and highly damaging to domestic ratepayers. The council might have had that in mind when deciding to change their plans, as well as events which would come about within the next 15 months or so.

There had been a tremendous change in attitudes on the shop floor as a result of Government legislation, involving such things as no-strike agreements and the end of the closed shop, and a much more realistic attitude among workers, many of whom were capitalists and owned their houses and owned shares (renewed cheering).

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. Our trade union reforms have helped to transform the climate for business in this country. We now have the lowest number of days lost through disputes in 20 years and it is our reforms, and the way trade unionists have

responded, which is in part responsible for the excellent optimistic business survey this week.

Under this Government I am delighted that far more trade unionists own their own homes and shares.

Mrs Thatcher spoke strongly in favour of her Government's policies towards the teachers and nurses during Prime Minister's question time.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burnwood, C) had asked: Would she not agree that in implementing promptly and in full the recommended 9.5 per cent pay increase for nurses, the Government has demonstrated its continuing commitment to improving the lot of the nursing profession, which has grown by 50,000 under this Government?

He also said that there could be no justification for lightning strikes by teachers, as was happening in his constituency, when the Government had agreed them a 2.5 per cent average increase. That was far more than many of his constituents in manufacturing industry had been able to secure.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes I agree. Under the last Labour Government, nurses' pay actually fell in real terms. Under this Government, nurses' pay has gone up by 30 per cent over and above the rate of inflation, and teachers have also done very well. Their pay has gone up by 27 per cent over and above the rate of inflation.

Plans to increase
VAT rate denied

There were no plans to raise the rate of value-added tax to the 25 per cent reached under the last Labour Government, Mrs Margaret Thatcher confirmed in answer to Mr John Maples (Lewisham West, C) during Prime Minister's question time, adding that there were no plans to put VAT on food.

Earlier, the Government had been repeatedly challenged during Treasury questions in the Commons to state its future intentions on the rate of VAT to be imposed on items now zero-rated.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, asked if the Government would veto any imposition by the European Commission to put VAT on food, fuel, children's clothing and new building.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, replied that the Commission had not put forward any such proposals. Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) asked why papers concerning the extension of

VAT in Britain had been withdrawn from a meeting of EEC finance ministers.

Mr Stewart replied he could ask whatever questions he liked of the Commission. "As far as the Government is concerned, our policy is to reduce taxation, the Labour Party's is to increase it, and I am sorry they have to resort to repeated smears to cover up the fact they are the party of high taxation and are the party to reduce it."

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab) said that it was becoming increasingly clear that the Conservative Party intended to fight the next election on two manifestos, an openly published one and a secret manifesto in which there would be proposals to increase the rate of VAT and extend its scope to food and other products.

Mr Stewart: We shall certainly fight the next election on two manifestos, ours and yours. Our manifesto will be of great assistance, but I think the Opposition party manifesto will be of even greater assistance to us.

Britain
must
follow
US lead

AUSTRIA

It was incontestable that Dr Kurt Waldheim, President of Austria, had lied consistently about his war record and proved himself totally unfit to hold public office, Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) said during business questions.

He said that he had seen documents relating to the case, and there was differentiation between allegations which had never been tried in court.

It was an interesting story why they had never been brought to court.

"Surely this Government can recognize the feelings of outrage which have occurred, and follow the lead given by others."

Mr Mervyn Jones (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former Home Secretary, had raised the matter when he said that the American Department of Justice and State Department had jointly requested information from the Anti-Nazi Tracking Unit on the basis of which Dr Waldheim was not to be allowed to go to the United States unless he went as President of Austria.

There was important information available which was relevant to activities in the United Kingdom.

The Government should ask for that information to be provided so that it could make its own judgement.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Leicester West, Lab): It is the responsibility of the Home Secretary to decide whether this evil man should be allowed into the United Kingdom.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): We do not cast reflections on the presidents of governments with which we have friendly relations.

Mr James: ... whether or not President Waldheim, or any other such person, should be allowed into the United Kingdom. Can we have a statement? Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, promised to refer the matter to the Home Secretary.

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall North, Lab): Has Mr Biffen seen my early day motion regarding this scoundrel?

The Speaker: He must withdraw that. It is not in accordance with our procedure. Mr Wainwright: I believe he is a scoundrel, but if I am not allowed to say it in the Chamber I withdraw it, but only as far as the Chamber is concerned.

Mr Biffen said that the Government's position had been made clear.

Parliament
next week

Monday is a Bank holiday. The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Tuesday: Proceedings on Chevening Estate Bill, Landlord and Tenant (No 2) Bill, remaining stages. Motion relating to Education (School Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Employment) Order.

Wednesday: Debate on the security situation in Northern Ireland.

Thursday: Banking Bill, Lords amendments. Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport and Amusement Bill, remaining stages. City of Westminster Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 (Amendment) Bill, Tobacco Smoking (Public Places) Bill, Coal Mining Subsidies Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Tuesday: Abolition of Domestic Rates Etc (Scotland) Bill, report, third day.

Wednesday: Debate on post-school education.

Thursday: Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, committee.

Friday: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Companies (Audit) Committee Bill, Human Rights Bill, and Housing (Houses in Multiple Occupation) Bill, second readings.

so selectively it is perplexing. Why has she been resisting pressure which it must be in her political interest to accept?

She cannot have anything to hide herself, but might she be listening too much to those who have? Is she displaying a lack of sympathy and understanding because neither she nor any person or cause in which she believes could have been affected by the alleged conspiracy?

Is she once again demonstrating that she has a curious insensitivity to constitutional niceties? Is she unable to understand that these things do matter? Or is she simply being stubborn?

These are the sort of doubts that are being aroused by her negative response. They do not amount to a political crisis. But the episode conveys an impression of clumsiness and complacent government. It is the kind of development that is most likely to upset those voters who are wavering between the Conservatives and the Alliance.

Historians are unlikely to point to this controversy as the deciding factor in the coming election. But it is a strange approach to the art of political leadership to go in search of a tripwire.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The longer Mrs Thatcher refuses to appoint an inquiry into the MI5 allegations the more she is creating a totally unnecessary political embarrassment for herself. So long as the issue is what was done in the mid-1970s she is completely in the clear. As soon as the issue becomes what is not being done now she puts herself in the firing line.

She has emphasized that she bears no responsibility for what occurred before she came to power in 1979, without seeming to appreciate the significance of her own words. Whatsoever might be revealed about MI5 activities under the Wilson Government would not touch her directly.

Some Conservatives fear that they could suffer indirectly. There might be a wave of sympathy for Labour if it could be proved that the party was treated outrageously when it previously held office. The Conservatives, so it is said, might be tainted by guilt through association with the Wilson Government.

All of this sounds pretty far fetched to me. One would need a lurid imagination to suppose that a bunch of MI5 misdeeds was being programmed by Conservative Central Office. I

see no reason why the present Government should be hurt by any inquiry into the alleged MI5 undermining of the Wilson Administration.

In any case, there would be no chance of the inquiry's being completed before a June election. Mrs Thatcher would be able to proclaim not only her innocence, which would be self-evident, but also her rigour.

"Although I have no ministerial responsibility for events which occurred before this Government came to office," she could say, "I am

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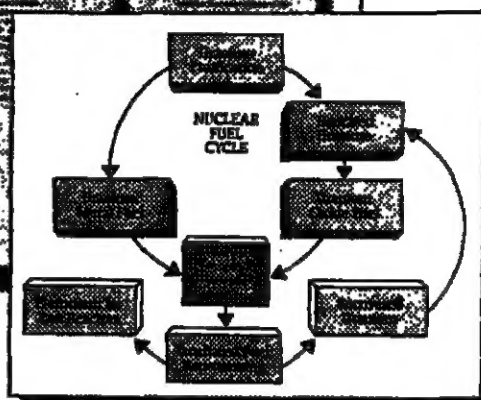
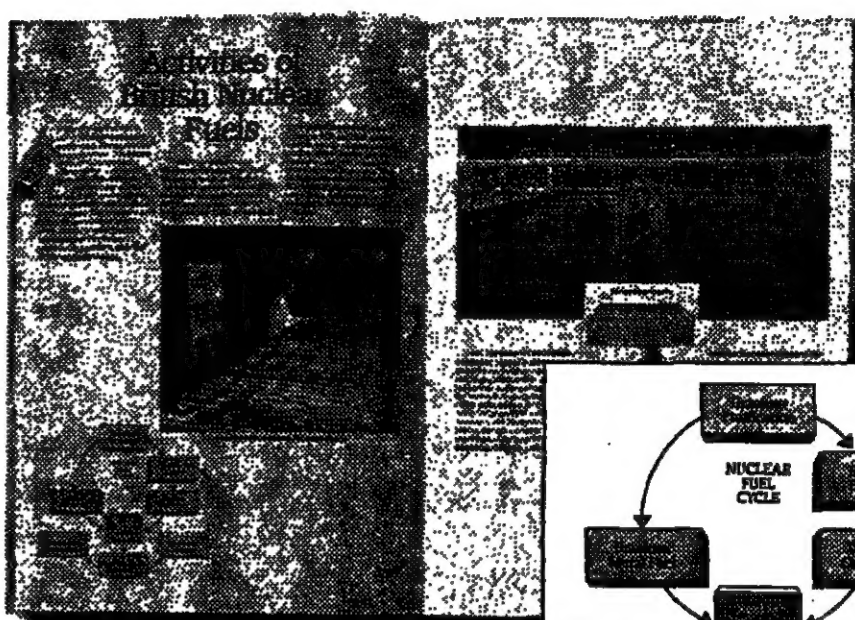
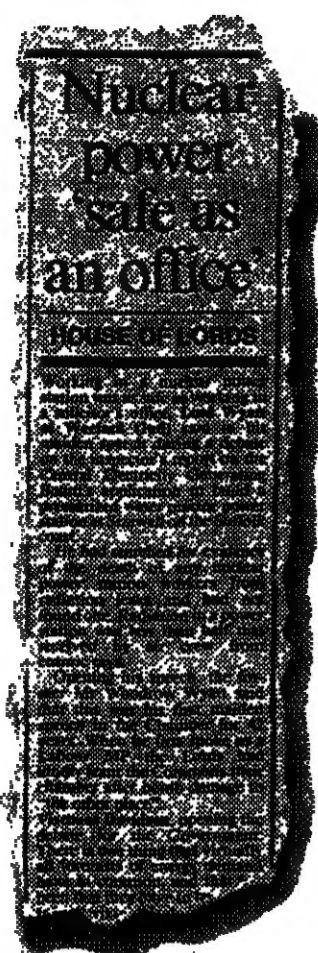


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1

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Last year, 120 of our staff travelled the length and breadth of the land to give talks to schools, industry, trades unions and other interested groups.

4

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By writing to our Information Services department, you can arrange for one of them to visit your organisation.

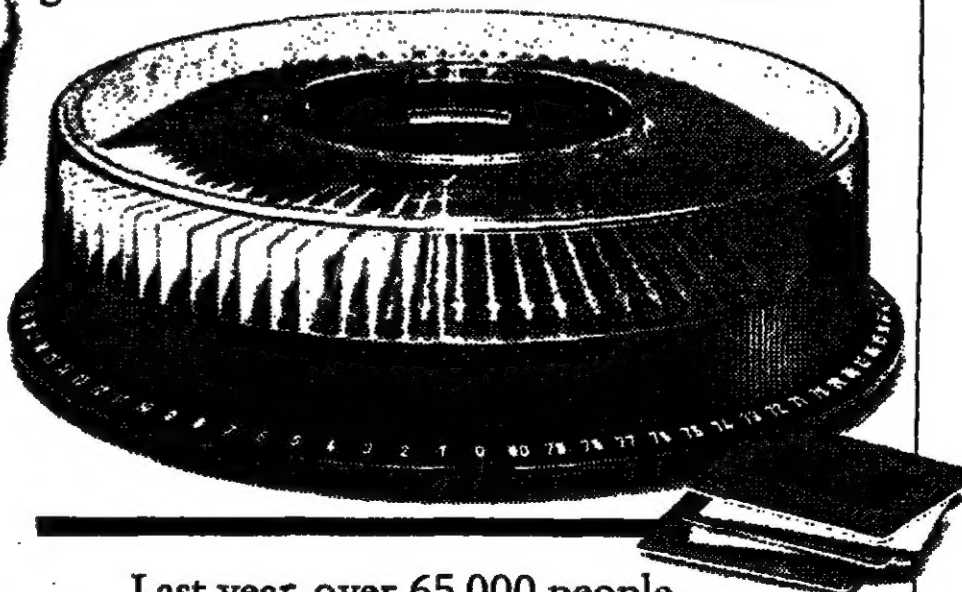
You won't get the Company line. You'll get an individual assessment of the issues.

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2

Opposition groups have a point of view. Greenpeace, among others, will send you the facts as they see them.

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Last year, over 65,000 people were mindful enough of the nuclear debate to visit Sellafield. If you were to come up yourself, you could tour the site after you've been round the Exhibition Centre.

5

See for yourself.

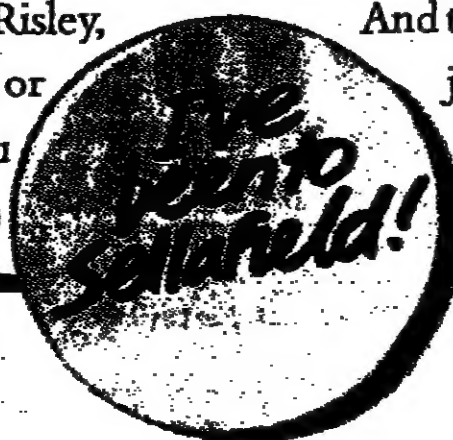
And then you'll be in a position to make a judgement yourself. A judgement all the more balanced for your enquiries.

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PLC.

Get our side of the story.

3

If you do have questions, perhaps we can answer them. If you write to us at Information Services, British Nuclear Fuels plc, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS, or phone 01-200 0200, we'll send you our information pack. We'll also



Warning lights indicating doors were shut 'unreliable'

Ferry men switched bow duty for tea breaks, inquiry told

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Responsibility for closing the doors on Townsend Thoresen's cross-Channel ferries depended on which member of the crew wanted a cup of tea, the inquiry into the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster off Zeebrugge was told yesterday.

Mr Max Potterton, deputy bosun on the ferry on which nearly 200 people were killed, told Mr Robert Owen, QC, representing the crew, that he sometimes shut the doors when Mr Marc Stanley, the assistant bosun, asked him to, or sometimes he offered to do it.

Mr Owen: "In what circumstances would that happen?"

Mr Potterton: "I might want a cup of tea and he will shut the doors, or he might want a cup of tea and I will shut the doors. We are both capable of doing it."

Mr Potterton said warning lights on the control panel to indicate the doors were shut were unreliable.

He added: "I always checked visually to make sure they were engaged."

"Occasionally there was trouble closing the bow doors. An engineer would come to fix them, and in the meantime the ship would not proceed to sea."

Mr Potterton's evidence came after the court of inquiry in London was told again that Townsend Thoresen rejected a request from a ferry master for warning lights to be installed on the bridge.

Replying to Mr Charles Haddon-Cave, representing the victims, survivors and their families, Mr Potterton said he once had trouble closing the doors because the "dogs" which brought them together would not allow the doors to meet.

He knew they were not shut because "you can see the gap".

He reported that to the bridge by telephone and an engineer was detailed to fix them "fairly quickly", he said.

On that occasion the ship

had left its moorings but "heaved to" and did not put to sea.

Mr Potterton told Miss Belinda Bucknall, counsel for the Herald's master, Captain David Lewry, that it was important to make sure the bow doors were closed before the ship went to sea.

Everybody on the ship knew that, he agreed. Asked if the issue was taken seriously, he replied: "Of course."

Miss Bucknall: "Did the Herald ever sail or put to sea with bow doors open on G Deck?"

Mr Potterton: "No, never."

Miss Bucknall: "Would you agree with me that it is a good idea to close the bow doors on G Deck as soon as loading is completed if you can do it?"

Mr Potterton: "Yes, certainly". Asked why, he replied: "Because I finish my duties and I can get off the deck."

Second Officer Paul Morter gave the court the first detailed account of what happened on the bridge as the ferry capsized after it left Zeebrugge for Dover.

He had been released from his duties on the bridge for a meal break as the vessel left the harbour.

He told the inquiry he was examining the menu with colleagues. "I heard a dull thud and felt a slight tremor. These alerted my senses."

"Then I realized the ship was heeling to port as if turning to starboard. I realized something abnormal was happening and I dashed for the bridge."

"I saw the master by the ship's console. By this time I had to hang on to stop myself sliding to port."

"I recall seeing the chief officer falling from starboard to port as the heel increased. The port bridge was going into the water."

"I recall hearing alarm bells and hearing the master give the orders to close the bow watertight doors."

"Water was coming up the bridge front window. Water was pouring into the bridge."

"I recall water coming up the stairs from B deck. I then fell into the water inside the bridge."

"After an indeterminate time under water I surfaced near the steering console. I heard Ostend radio repeatedly calling the Herald of Free Enterprise."

Mr Morter was eventually pulled from the bridge by crew members and taken to safety.

Earlier Mr Morter said that if he had been in charge of the vehicle loading deck, he would have checked that the assistant bosun had arrived to close the bow doors before leaving the car deck.

He told the court that the chief officer of the ferry had taken over responsibility for completing the loading of the ship, and had thus become responsible for checking that the bow doors were closed before she sailed.

But the doors were not closed and just outside the harbour the ferry capsized with water pouring on to the car deck.

Mr Morter told how as loading proceeded he had gone to the car deck and taken over from Mr Leslie Sable, the chief officer.

However, shortly before loading was completed Mr Sable had unexpectedly returned.

Mr Morter did not at that stage speak to the chief officer, but he told the inquiry: "I was aware of the situation that he had taken over the loading on the deck."

"He was in communication with the shore by radio and he was directing traffic and instructing the crew in the storage of the vehicles."

A little later Mr Morter said that Mr Sable had ordered "harbour stations" to be called in preparation for the ferry to sail.

The hearing continues today.



Miss Fiona Pinnells (top left) who, with her fiancé, Mr Jonathan Reynolds and her younger sister, Heidi, died in the ferry disaster. Mrs Evelyn Pinnells (right) and her two other children survived, but the youngsters are now afraid to go on holiday anywhere near water.

Company will be 'generous'

By David Sapsted

Parents shocked to discover that a statutory £3,500 "price tag" existed on the lives of schoolchildren drowned in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster were yesterday assured by P & O that compensation would be much more generous.

A spokesman for the company, owners of Townsend Thoresen, also promised that the firm would not try to hide behind a legal loophole which, in theory, meant that no money would have to be paid out on sons and daughters aged over 18.

"We accept that the law is ridiculous in relation to children. Each case will be looked at individually, but I can assure you that they will be treated very sympathetically and very quickly. We have never contemplated limiting compensation to the legal maximum", the spokesman said.

P & O criticized the Daily

Mirror which suggested yesterday that compensation would be limited to the common law maximum of £3,500 for youngsters aged under 18, and nothing at all for victims over 18.

Mr Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and a former Conservative Home Office minister, wrote to Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday asking him to "urgently consider the question of compensation relating to children killed in the disaster".

The move came after an appeal to the MP by Mrs Evelyn Pinnells, of Bedgrove, Aylesbury. She and two of her four children survived the catastrophe, but she lost two daughters when the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized.

In the wake of the story in the Daily Mirror, Mrs Pin-

nells feared that - apart from an ex-gratia payment of £2,000 - Townsend Thoresen would offer only £3,500 for the loss of her daughter, Heidi, aged 14, and nothing for the death of Fiona, aged 20, whose fiancé, Mr Jonathan Reynolds, aged 20, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, also died in the ferry.

Mrs Pinnells, who is a divorcee, said yesterday: "I was devastated when I heard that this was the legal maximum. I have lost Heidi's maintenance and child allowance, and Fiona's contribution to the household expenses was vital."

Since the disaster, Mrs Pinnells and her two surviving children - Wayne, aged 12, and Amanda, aged 17 - have retired the disaster nightly. They have cancelled a family holiday in Devon because the children are now afraid to go near water.

Sisters attack 'profits quest'

By Ian Smith

Tearful relatives of one of the seamen who died on board the Herald of Free Enterprise yesterday demanded the immediate withdrawal from service of all roll-on, roll-off ferries, and a parliamentary inquiry into the disaster.

Sue and Carol Haney dismissed the Board of Trade investigation now under way as a sham. Their brother, Geoff, aged 31, a second chief, was killed when the ferry capsized.

They want an independent government-ordered inquiry whose panel would comprise politicians, trade union officials, and relatives of the Zeebrugge victims.

The sisters described the disaster as a direct and inevitable result of Townsend Thoresen's quest for profits. They accuse both the Government and ferry company of being aware of inherent dangers in the design of the ferries.

Miss Carol Haney said: "To carry out remedial work on the ships would mean a 25 per cent cut in company profits and would reduce their income to £131 million a year."

A memorial service for their brother is being held tonight in Oldham, Lancashire.

Brokers jump the gun over sale of ship

Brokers have put the Herald of Free Enterprise up for sale without instructions from Townsend Thoresen and without permission from the Belgian courts who technically own the vessel.

Mr Peter Ford, chairman of Townsend Thoresen, yesterday said the brokers were acting "off their own bat".

Mr Nick Richards, for the shipping charterers, Anderson Hughes, said: "It's quite normal for brokers to pick up ideas that a boat is for sale and put it on their list. Then when it does come up for sale genuinely, they've already got a buyer interested."

Corporal is guilty of assault on recruit

A Royal Marines weapons instructor who butted a 6ft 3in recruit was dismissed the service and ordered to be detained for 112 days by a court martial yesterday. He was also reduced to the ranks.

Corporal Derrick Pinington, aged 26, was found guilty of assaulting Marine Gary Sanderson, a Navy boxing champion, causing actual bodily harm.

Pinington intervened in a barrack room argument and broke the recruit's nose, sending the nasal bone a quarter of an inch into his skull.

The hearing at Lymington, Devon, was told that Pinington, from Morecambe, Lancashire, had been found guilty of three previous offences - fighting, criminal damage and assault.

The incident happened after recruits returned from a drinking spree. Pinington, who denied the charges, told the court he had acted in self-defence.

Verdict and sentence are subject to confirmation.

Taxidermist accused over golden eagle

A taxidermist was accused yesterday of dealing in rare, stuffed wild birds, including a golden eagle, and rare birds eggs.

In a linked case W. and F. C. Bonham & Sons, a London auction house, was accused of having a stuffed golden eagle.

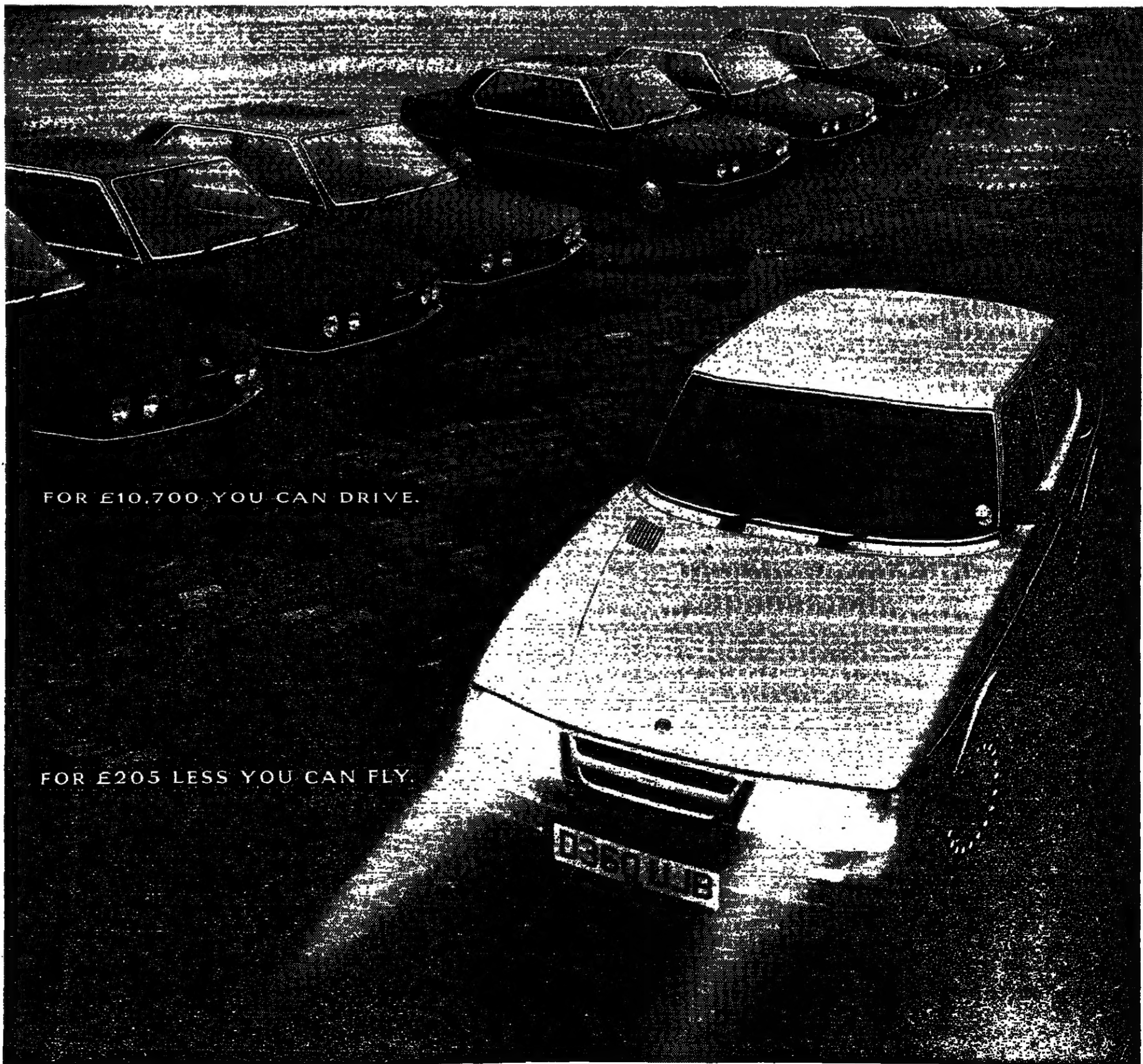
Kenneth Everett, of Trefusis Close, Truro, Cornwall, faces 20 summonses brought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds under the Wildlife and Country Act, 1981. Each summons carries a maximum penalty of £2,000.

The hearing at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, was adjourned until September 1.

Death trial

A couple whose daughter died in a car driven by a family friend yesterday won their battle to have her prosecuted for causing their daughter's death by dangerous driving. Magistrates at Reading, Berkshire, committed Mrs Leona Moxon-Tritsch, of Streaitley, for trial.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Pope calls for aid to the deprived

Rome — The Pope flew into West Germany yesterday on his second visit in seven years and called for solidarity and support for people who had to leave their homelands on racial, religious or ethnic grounds (John England writes). He said that Edith Stein, the Jewish-born nun who died in a Nazi concentration camp, and Rupert Mayer, a Jesuit priest who was persecuted by the Gestapo, both of whom he will be visiting during his visit, were symbols for those deprived of their rights whom West Germany must continue to help.

He said he hoped that the common witness of faith of all Christians would lead gradually to an increasingly deeper unity of the Christian churches and communities.

Protest by Austria

Vienna (Reuters) — Herr Alois Mock, the Austrian Foreign Minister, yesterday summoned the US Ambassador to protest against the ban on President Waldheim entering the United States. Herr Mock emphasized that allegations Dr Waldheim took part in wartime persecution were unfounded.

Dr Waldheim was yesterday invited to visit Hungary despite the fact that the invitation could upset the Jewish community there.

First witness

Washington — Major-General Richard Secord, the retired Air Force general, will be the first witness when congressional hearings into the Iran arms scandal open on Tuesday (Michael Binyon writes). He will testify without immunity.

General Secord will be the first of about 50 witnesses to be called and he will be followed by Mr Robert McFarlane, the former National Security Adviser.

Barbie's legal aid

Lyon — Maître Jacques Berge, the lawyer defending Klaus Barbie, whose trial for war crimes starts in two weeks' time, said yesterday that he was providing his services free of charge because his client had no financial means of his own (Diana Geddes writes).

He estimated that his expenses and loss of earnings during the eight weeks of the trial would amount to around \$61,000.

Forgotten victims, page 12

Mahathir sacks seven

Kuala Lumpur — Datuk Seri Mahathir Muhammad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, yesterday left for a two-week holiday after sacking three ministers and four deputy ministers following the resignation of Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah, the Trade and Industry Minister, and Datuk Rais Yatim, the Foreign Minister (M.G.G. Pillai writes).

Tan Sri Razaleigh had come within 43 votes of defeating Dr Mahathir in an election in the United Malays National Organisation, the main party in the ruling National Front coalition. Datuk Rais and those sacked are aligned with him.

Moscow date

Paris (Reuters) — M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, yesterday announced that his long-scheduled visit to Moscow, which he hopes will boost his Government's flagging fortunes, will take place on May 14 to 16. His talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, will focus mainly on prospects for agreements to withdraw Soviet and American medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Ambush remands

Cyprus police now believe they have arrested all three men directly involved in last week's ambush of a British Army Land-Rover but said they were still looking for a possible "mastermind" who may have directed the attack (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Yesterday three Arabs, suspected of being Libyan travellers on false passports, were remanded in custody for eight days by a court in Limassol.

Final mystery tour

Geneva (Reuters) — Sherlock Holmes fans began a 10-day pilgrimage to Switzerland yesterday to mark the 100th birthday of the fictional detective. Led by "Holmes" himself, clad in tweeds and deer stalker, the 71 members of the Sherlock Holmes Society, all in Victorian costume, stepped off a plane here to re-enact what the author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle intended to be his last Holmes story.

Finland's right-wing Cabinet announced

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Finland's first Conservative Prime Minister since the war, Mr Harri Holkeri, was sworn in yesterday. His four party coalition won 131 of the 200 seats in the general election.

Mr Holkeri's coalition includes the Conservatives, Social Democrats, the Swedish People's Party and the populist Rural Party.

Cabinet: Prime Minister Mr Holkeri (C), Foreign and Deputy PM Kalevi Sorsa (SD), Justice Matti Loukoski (SD), Interior Jarmo

Rantanen (SD), Defence Ole Norrback (SPP), Finance Erkki Liikanen (SD), Second Finance Mrs Ulla Puustinen (C), Education Christopher Tassell (SWP), Foreign Trade Pertti Salolainen (C), Minister without portfolio Ilkka Kanerva (C), Culture Mrs Anna-Liisa Piipari (SD), Agriculture Toivo T. Pöyhönen (C), Communication Pekka Vennamo (RP), Trade and Commerce Ilkka Suominen (C), Social and Health Mrs Helena Pesola (C), Second Social and Health Mrs Taina Halonen (SD), Employment Matti Puhakka (SD), Environment Kaj Bartund (SD).

Argentine torture-charge officer in court at last

From Eduardo Cuié
Buenos Aires

It took a military rebellion, an unprecedented show of popular support for democracy, a courageous President and two weeks of hiding, but former army Major Ernesto Guillermo Barreiro finally made it to court.

Dressed in civilian clothes to denote his new status as a former military officer, Señor Barreiro appeared on Wednesday evening before the same Federal Appeals Court in the northern city of Córdoba whose authority he had refused to recognize only two weeks ago.

His failure to appear before the court to answer charges of human rights violations he allegedly committed during the former military regime sparked an insurrection by officers of the 14th Airborne

Infantry Division, where Major Barreiro had hidden.

That rebellion ended the following day when the major fled the garrison, but by then officers at the Campo de Mayo base near Buenos Aires had taken over a military academy they were to hold for three days.

The ex-officer's reappearance came as Argentina waited eagerly for President Alfonsín's speech today before the opening session of Congress.

The event will mark the first time the President has formally addressed the nation since he defused the Easter weekend crisis by personally flying to the Campo de Mayo rebel officers to surrender.

Since then the Government has been hoping for a Supreme Court ruling on the concept of due

obedience — that is, how far responsibility passes down the chain of command for obeying illegal orders.

The Government has been hoping that such a ruling would limit the number of active duty officers who can be tried and thereby lessen the deep discontent within the military.

But reports published yesterday in the authoritative newspaper *La Nación* say that the court had balked at issuing such a ruling under political pressure and that the matter will have to be settled by Congress.

"At the very least the court could have suspended the human rights trials for 30 days, but they have even refused to do that," a deputy of the ruling Radical Party told *La Nación*.

"As a result the court continues to summon officers, despite the danger that one of them will refuse to show

up," Dr José Severo Caballero, the Supreme Court President, has told the human rights groups that the court cannot constitutionally order a suspension to the trials.

Last week the nation's highest tribunal asked the country's Federal Appeals Courts to submit detailed reports within 10 days on the human rights cases in their jurisdictions. While some of these trials have been temporarily suspended, others continue against the obvious wishes of the Government.

One of the hearings indefinitely suspended involves the new Army Chief of Staff, Brigadier General José Dante Caridi, who was to appear before a Federal Appeals Court investigating the death of a conscript soldier in which the general was allegedly involved.

Señor Barreiro, who was dishonourably discharged from the

Army during the crisis, appeared before the six judges of the Córdoba court for almost two hours, but few details emerged from the session. The court ordered that the ex-officer be held in preventive detention.

It was not known yesterday where the former army major had been hiding during the past two weeks or why he had decided finally to appear before the court.

Señor Barreiro is charged with one murder and six torture cases he allegedly committed while serving as Chief of Investigations at the La Perla detention centre near Córdoba during the former dictatorship.

The court hearing on Wednesday concerned only Señor Barreiro's activities at the La Perla centre, according to informed sources. Formal charges are to be brought against him for his role in the Easter weekend events.

Unions claim Pretoria has exploited necklace killings

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Angry black trade union leaders yesterday accused the South African authorities and the management of the state-owned railways of using the "necklace" murders of four men as a "political football" in a mounting campaign of harassment and intimidation of the labour movement.

The Council of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the South African Transport Services (SATS) workers and had been assaulted at Cosatu House, the trade union headquarters building in central Johannesburg before they were "necklaced".

The bodies of the men, who were stabbed repeatedly and then burnt under stacks of tyres, were discovered on Tuesday near Johannesburg's Kaserne railway depot.

Police, who said they were alerted by a fifth black who escaped the killers, say they were South African Transport Services (SATS) workers and had been assaulted at Cosatu House, the trade union headquarters building in central Johannesburg before they were "necklaced".

The police raided the building late on Tuesday night after an all-day siege and arrested 11 people — one of them a boy, aged 12 — in connection with the killings.

On Wednesday union staff arrived for work to find "torture rooms" spray-painted on the outside walls of the building.



White teenage schoolboys doing the jobs of striking black railway workers at a station in Johannesburg. Some 800 white schoolchildren have been recruited to handle freight and clean trains during the dispute, marked by violence and a clampdown on unions.

Mr Jay Naidoo, the general secretary of Cosatu, said that it condemned violence absolutely and was having urgent talks with SARHU to find out the truth about what had happened.

"If those workers died at the hands of other railway workers, we say that should not have happened," he declared.

"We believe, however, that it is disgraceful for the Government to exploit the deaths as a political football to step up its propaganda war against us as a legal trade union federation and our affiliate, SARHU.

"They are using innuendo and insinuation to prepare a climate for more drastic

restrictions on our legitimate activities."

Mr Naidoo said about 1,000 people worked at Cosatu House "and it is not possible to know who comes in or out, or even whether they are union members". Some people had been found in the building with forged trade union membership cards.

Big business 'turning against Botha'

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Zacharias de Beer, the Executive Director of South Africa's giant Anglo American Corporation, says that he believes most business people in the country will be voting against the Government.

Their votes, he believes, will be divided between the two main liberal parties — the Progressive Federal Party (PFF) and its smaller alliance partner, the New Republican Party — and such independent businessmen as Dr Denis Worrall, the former Ambassador to Britain.

Dr de Beer said that the episode of Mr Chris Ball helped to explain the low profile taken in the general election campaign by South African businessmen. Not long ago, big business was a strident voice of white liberalism, meeting ANC leaders in Zambia, calling for a charter of rights which included universal suffrage, and pressing for faster change.

"I have no doubt that the State President made this attack on Chris Ball in order to intimidate businessmen," he said. He added that he supported the banker, who has denied knowing that an over-

confident that the vast majority of business people are going to vote against the Government."

Dr de Beer said that the episode of Mr Chris Ball helped to explain the low profile taken in the general election campaign by South African businessmen. Not long ago, big business was a strident voice of white liberalism, meeting ANC leaders in Zambia, calling for a charter of rights which included universal suffrage, and pressing for faster change.

"I have no doubt that the State President made this attack on Chris Ball in order to intimidate businessmen," he said. He added that he supported the banker, who has denied knowing that an over-

draft he authorized would be used to fund opposition advertisements.

Dr de Beer sees the Ball incident in the context of what he called "by far the nastiest election campaign I have ever seen", as one strand of a successful strategy of dividing or silencing white opposition.

"P.W. Botha has divided the right by showing he can be tougher than them in his raids on the front-line states, and the left by suggesting that we are communists," he said.

His own vote will be no surprise, as he was a founder of the PFF with Mrs Helen Suzman and others in 1959.

Certainly they are close to those of Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the former head of the

interlocked Anglo American and De Beers groups, which make up South Africa's largest mining and industrial complex.

Dr de Beer favours government negotiations with the ANC and other groups, leading to universal suffrage and a majority government which would necessarily be mainly black.

Dr de Beer recognizes the inevitability of a National Party victory and is already looking to the election after next. His hope is that a gain of a few PFF and independent seats could create a climate for a liberal victory the next time round.

What moves President Botha might make in response to a liberal advance has aroused much speculation. Dr de Beer tends to discount suggestions that he might be tempted to allow Natal to experiment with the Indaba constitution agreed between Chief Buthe and others.

"If the Government were to concede universal suffrage in any part of the country, the pressure to do so in the rest would become intolerable,"

Cat's pedigree in doubt 'Egyptian' bronze probably a fake

From Charles Bremner, New York

Its likeness adorns countless postcards and posters and for many visitors it was the most memorable object in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. But, it was revealed yesterday, the museum's famed ancient Egyptian cat is probably a fake.

"There's something wrong with that cat," said Ms Christine Lillyquist, the curator of Egyptian Art said after the museum confirmed reports that the pedigree of the prized bronze sculpture probably dates from the 1950s rather than 300 BC. "My personal opinion is that it's a forgery," she said.

Mr Philippe de Montebello, the director of the museum, put it more delicately. "Careful technical examination seems to point to modern manufacture," he said of the 15-inch high statue.

Suspicion was first raised five years ago, Ms Lillyquist said, when tests proved another sculpture to be a pastiche. The cat was removed from the museum's antiquity department where it had drawn the crowds since it was acquired in 1958. It made a brief reappearance in 1983.

X-ray tests revealed that the bronze used in the corroded green-coloured cat was a porous type made from an alloy of lead and copper instead of tin and copper.

Such an alloy has not been found before in Egyptian artefacts but this alone would not confirm a forgery, the museum said.

The experts say that there is no scientific technique to date bronze, as there is for ceramics and organic materials.

The animal, long thought to contain the mummified remains of a Nile Delta feline, is now undergoing examinations to see if its corrosion had been produced by chemicals rather

than 2,000 years of exposure to the atmosphere.

The museum is also trying to trace the man who sold it to them in 1958, Mr Charles Morley, a wealthy collector who was known to curators as a source for ancient Egyptian art. He is said to have left the United States for Switzerland four years ago.

In the 1950s, a number of cat sculptures reached the market after the discovery of a cemetery dedicated to the cat god at Bubastis in the Nile Delta.

Ms Lillyquist said that she was not disappointed to conclude that the animal in her collection is a fake. "It bothers you when you see things that don't fit, stylistically, technically. You get a bit angry that somebody has taken this trouble to fool people."



New York's controversial cat: 300 BC or the 1950s?

Official says Pentagon rushed ABM decision

From Michael Binyon, Washington

A former senior US negotiator, who helped advise the Administration that it could interpret the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in favour of the faster deployment of the Strategic Defence Initiative, said his office was pressured by the Pentagon into giving a swift view with no dissent.

Mr William Sims, who worked in the office of Mr Abraham Sofaer, the State Department legal adviser, told a Senate hearing: "We provided President Reagan with a

biased decision memorandum." He felt so strongly about this that he had resigned.

Mr Sims said top State Department experts were excluded from the decision. Throughout the "rushed" deliberations in autumn 1985, the Pentagon "seemed to be in the driver's seat", and internal dissent was crushed.

It was only the evening before the memorandum was given to Mr Reagan that dissent was allowed to be voiced.

Fundamentalism-realism split on eve of Greens congress

The three-day annual party congress of the West German Greens opens in Duisburg today amid a struggle between the party's two wings. Richard Owen in Frankfurt reports.

The most memorable moment in the recent West German election, which returned Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition with a reduced majority, came on the eve-of-poll television debate.

Herr Kohl and the other established political heavyweights, all in the same grey suits, greeted each other affably, but virtually ignored the little-known young women who stood outside the charmed circle, her hair tumbling to her shoulders and a faintly mocking smile on her lips: Frau Jutta Ditfurth, the spokesperson of the Greens, the ecology party.

Yet the astute Frau Ditfurth dominated the ensuing debate. The episode is still reverberating three months later. Frau Ditfurth says — dismissing the idea wrongly — that the Greens are alleged to have gained at least 2 per cent extra support as a result of her performance.

The Greens are at a watershed in their remarkable history. Four years ago they entered the Bundestag (Parliament) for the first time, with 5.6 per cent of the vote and 27



Frau Jutta Ditfurth: denies Fundis' 'loony left' tag.

MPs. This year their share shot up to 8.3 per cent, giving them 42 MPs. The party which emerged from the protest movements and counter-culture of the 1960s and 1970s has come of age. Yet success has brought with it the problem which bedevils all established parties: how to bridge the gap between ideologically opposed wings.

The immediate catalyst of schism was the local (state) election in Hesse a month ago, in which the Greens did well (they got 9.4 per cent) but which brought about the final demise of the Red-Green alliance in Hesse between the Socialists (SPD) and the Greens, who had provided the Environment Minister in the coalition in the highly unconventional form of Herr Joschka Fischer. But the

seeds of the coalition's collapse had been sown much earlier when fundamentalists among the Greens, known as Fundis (though they prefer "ecological socialists"), made clear their opposition to coalition dealings with the SPD or any other party.

The realists, or Realos, led by Herr Fischer and the late radical lawyer Herr Otto Schilly, argue that Green policies will only have an effect if the party seeks government responsibility. This contradiction within the Greens has been present from the beginning, but it is now emerging into open warfare. The crunch came in February this year, when Herr Fischer — always at odds with his SPD partners in Hesse — resigned over the Socialists' support for two

controversial plutonium plants near Frankfurt.

The Realos' problems are not only that local coalition politics have proved fraught with difficulty, or even that the Greens' dislike of centralization militates against a coherent strategy, but also that the main parties, including the ruling Christian Democrats, have stolen their clothes. Ecology, nuclear disarmament, and

concern about nuclear safety are no longer the preserve of the Greens. As a result the Greens are casting about for a new role, and the trend is towards a lurch to the left.

The hour of the Fundis, in other words, appears to have come. The fact that Frau Ditfurth spoke for the Greens in the crucial election debate was itself the outcome of a bitter behind-the-scenes struggle in which the Fundis gained the upper hand. Frau Ditfurth's background would not perhaps suggest that she is a natural fundamentalist leader: she comes from a solid middle-class Frankfurt family (her father is the writer Holmar von Ditfurth — Jutta dropped the "von" for egalitarian reasons). On the other hand there is a tradition, not least in modern Germany, of radical youth rebelling against a middle-class upbringing. Frau Ditfurth's formidable combination of sharp wit and earnest passion looks set to carry the day for the Fundis when the Greens elect five new members of their 11-man "rotating" leadership this weekend.

One leading Realo, Herr Lucas Beckmann, the Greens leader in Parliament, caused a storm on the eve of today's congress by launching a counter-attack against the Fundis and going so far as to suggest the Greens should ally themselves not only with the SPD but even with the Chris-

tian Democrats, previously seen as the enemy. The assertion of a pragmatic middle of the road Green image is also symbolized by a Green "mothers' group" which is challenging the stranglehold over women's rights issues exercised by Green Party

Realos fear the danger of a slide into violent protest

feminists. This move, and the establishment by Herr Beckmann of a Green political fund in the name of Heinrich Boll, the writer, are designed by the Realos to broaden the Greens' appeal.

The Greens, whatever their internal divisions, benefit from widespread public concern over health and the environment — the first anniversary of Chernobyl underlines this dramatically — and they benefit, too, from anger over industrial pollution and unemployment. The Greens' anti-authoritarianism, moreover, appeals to many Germans of all ages for obvious historical reasons. The Greens are recommending a boycott of the national census to be carried out at the end of this month on the grounds that it amounts to state interference in the lives of individuals.

The Realos fear, however, is

that extra-parliamentary activity can tend to slide into violent protest, whether against nuclear installations or Nato bases — or at least that the Greens' enemies can make capital out of this danger. This is one of the few points on which the normally unflappable and self-assured Frau Ditfurth becomes slightly uncomfortable. A damaging split in the party and a decisive move away from coalition politics could persuade Germans that the Greens are once again the kind of fringe party which condoned the action of young supporters who in 1983, at the very beginning of the Greens' involvement in parliamentary politics, angered the Bundestag.

With party membership stagnating at around 40,000, the pragmatic wing of the party is openly worried that a reversion to a "loony left" image after four years of patient work learning the art of survival in the corridors of power will relegate the Greens to the margin. Frau Ditfurth and the Fundis deny this vehemently, and they deny also that the "ecological socialists" are attached to vegetarianism, romantic environmentalism and adolescent anti-establishment attitudes, as their opponents claim. The debate, Frau Ditfurth says, is really about how to reform German society from top to bottom.

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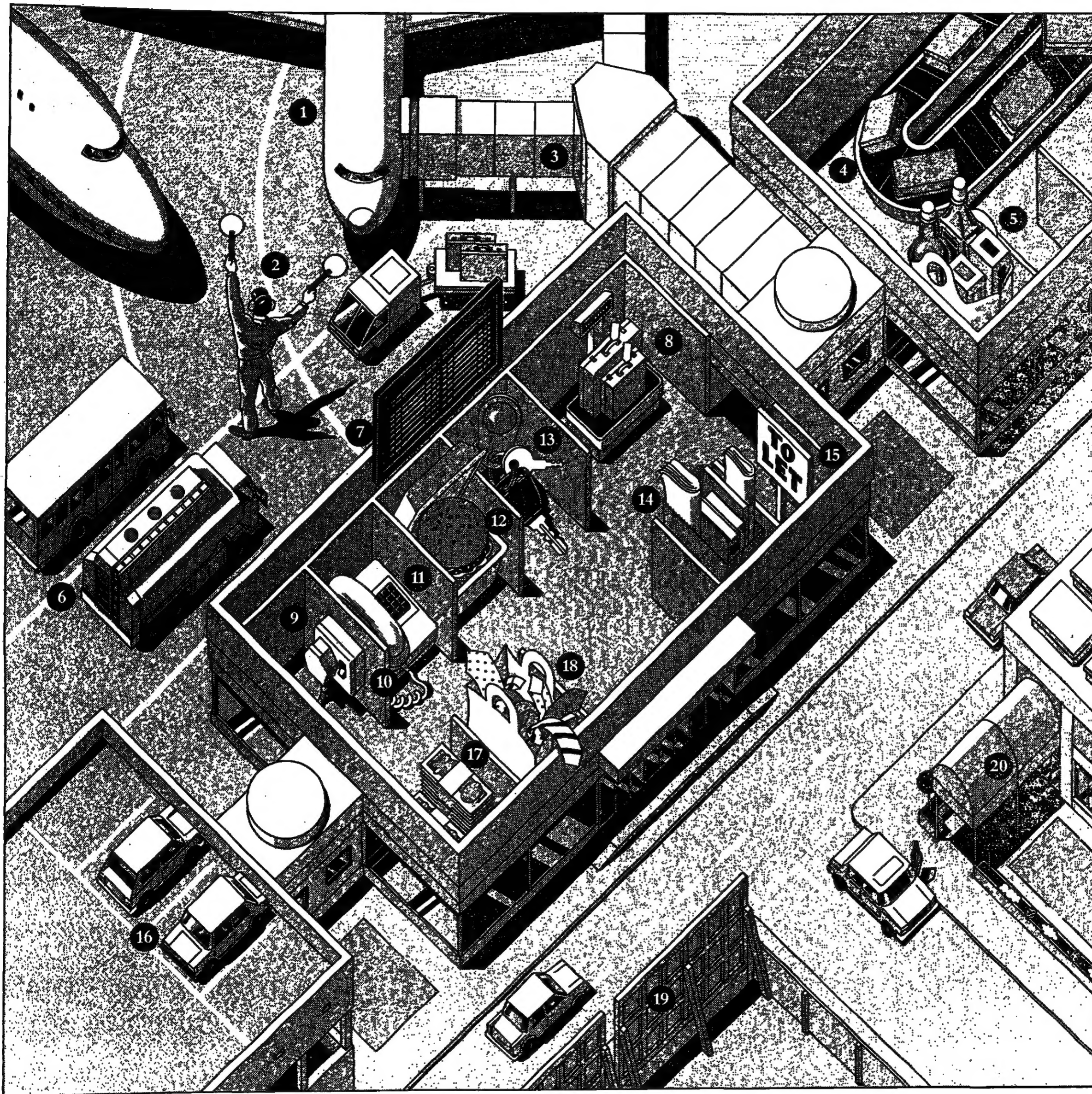
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Peres and Shamir ready for election as peace conference split widens

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Both main Israeli political factions have now put themselves on an election footing as the crisis deepens inside the divided coalition Government over calling an international peace conference for the Middle East.

With the latest opinion poll showing the Labour Party beginning to pull ahead, Mr Shimon Peres, the party leader and Foreign Minister, now seems intent on trying to bring down the Government as soon as possible.

He has received the backing of his party to put forward his project for the conference along lines which have already been approved by Jordan and the United States.

But Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister and Likud leader, returned from a four-day visit to France last night confident that his faction would unanimously oppose the project.

The two men are likely to meet over the weekend to see if they think it worthwhile continuing to serve in government together at a time when they are so bitterly opposed to each other on this basic point of Israeli policy.

With the country taking a long weekend to mark Re-

membrance Day and Independence Day, the weekly Cabinet meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, leaving a longer than usual period for manoeuvring.

By then Mr Peres hopes that Egypt and Jordan will have agreed to press on for negotiations without the Palestine Liberation Organization, making it possible for him to

President Reagan has written privately to Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, urging him to consider direct peace talks with Jordan under the auspices of an international conference (Christopher Thomas writes from Washington). Mr Reagan suggested that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, should visit Israel but the idea has been postponed.

urge the Cabinet to back his efforts to restart the peace process with the help of the international conference both these countries want.

He can show that the US has now approved and sponsors proposals for calling the conference with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China—then instructing

bilateral committees to negotiate a lasting peace.

These committees would be composed of Israel and each of its Arab neighbours.

Mr Thomas Pickering, the US Ambassador to Israel, went so far as to issue a statement saying that now was the time for a peace effort and leaving no doubt that Washington was behind Mr Peres.

There seems little chance, however, of the Likud breaking ranks to give Mr Peres the majority he needs to turn his policy into government policy.

Therefore if a Cabinet vote were called, he would lose and Mr Shamir could try to form a new government.

The vote in the Cabinet is far from certain yet, however, with Mr Shamir anxious to try to score points that would help to win an election.

Yesterday's opinion poll in the *Jerusalem Post* showed his need to stall for time.

The Labour Party now enjoys 42 per cent support, compared with 24 per cent for Likud. This is a 3 per cent gain on Likud since January, and even with its traditional support Mr Shamir's faction is not believed capable of forming a government.

May Day rehearsals in Tirana



Young Albanian militiamen armed with AK47 assault rifles marching down Tirana's Boulevard of the Heroes of the People in a rehearsal for the city's May Day parade today.

Lange says Howe interfered in domestic politics

From A Correspondent, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday accused Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, of trying to interfere in New Zealand's domestic politics while in Wellington this week.

Mr Lange told the Institute of International Affairs in Dunedin that Sir Geoffrey, in attempting to use New Zealand access to the EEC market as a lever against the country's anti-nuclear policy, was advancing an unsustainable argument, unworthy of the relationship between New Zealand and Europe.

"It is worse," he said. "Such is its illogicality that it can only be construed as an attempt to intervene in New Zealand's domestic politics."

While in Wellington, Sir Geoffrey said New Zealand's defence policy would make it more difficult for Britain to defend continued access for New Zealand agricultural products to Europe.

Mr Lange must call a general election by September 19 this year in which the Government's legislation prohibiting visits by potentially nuclear-armed warships will be a campaign issue.

The National Party opposition leader, Mr James Bolger, said that rather than interfering in New Zealand's politics Sir Geoffrey had come here "as a friend".

"I think Sir Geoffrey put it very clearly and fairly. We should listen to the message not attack the messenger."

said Mr Bolger, whose party has pledged to allow the resumption of port visits and to restore New Zealand to its former status as a fully operational member of the Anzus alliance with the United States and Australia.

But Mr Bolger's party was yesterday rated 11 per cent behind the ruling Labour Party in a Television New Zealand opinion poll conducted by the Haylen Research Centre. The poll showed the Labour Party was favoured by 54 per cent of respondents, with 43 per cent supporting the National Party.

Mr Lange has 31 per cent support as preferred Prime Minister. The former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, is the next most popular politician, with 19 per cent support and Mr Bolger third, with 8 per cent.

● SYDNEY: French policies in the Pacific, particularly its conduct in New Caledonia, has created a situation ripe for exploitation by Libya, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, said yesterday (Stephen Taylor writes).

In an address to the Foreign Correspondents Association of Australia, Mr Hayden said that Canberra had tried to press on Paris the need to encourage the development of a healthy multi-racial society in New Caledonia.

There was no doubt that Libya enjoyed twisting the tail of leading powers, Mr Hayden said.

RAF to test Maralinga site for radioactivity

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Two RAF helicopters are today due to start a new series of tests to establish the extent of radioactivity at Britain's main former nuclear test site in Australia.

The survey coincides with the disclosure that the Australian Government have turned up unexpected deposits of plutonium which were found far outside the Maralinga site, where British atomic tests and minor trials were conducted in the 1950s and 1960s.

Levels of plutonium found in the vicinity of the Oak

Valley Aboriginal community in South Australia are well below that stipulated as safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency but Canberra has ordered a further range of tests to confirm that there is no greater contamination which might pose danger.

These findings were mentioned to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, during his visit here last week by Senator Gareth Evans, the Minister of Resources and Energy. Canberra has not, however, proposed any further course of action.

PLO guerrilla leader spells out more trouble for Israel

From Robert Fisk, Mich Mich Palestinian Camp, Sidon

At first sight, Zaid Wehbe does not look the part. He is a rotund, 51-year-old ex-painter and Palestinian trade unionist from the Galilee village of Saasna, a member of the Palestine National Council whose middle-aged paunch suggests a grayer rather than a guerrilla leader. But Mr Wehbe is Mr Yasser Arafat's most senior Palestinian guerrilla commander in Lebanon and when he speaks—which he does slowly and with great care—there can be no doubting his authority.

There will be more attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon, he says. The Palestinian Fatah guerrillas have adopted new tactics and undergo day-and-night training around Sidon, they have new weapons in Lebanon and even Abu Nidal's men in Sidon are co-operating with the PLO. He lights a cigarette. "The first of the day," he

says on this, the third day of Ramadan.

Two Palestinian gunmen holding Kalashnikov rifles had stopped us at a concrete villa on the hillside road outside Sidon a few hundred yards from the last checkpoint of the local Lebanese Sunni Muslim militia. They travelled with us in our car to Mich Mich, holding their weapons upright on the seat beside us, distant but polite.

Mr Wehbe greeted us in a long, unapologetic room furnished only with a sofa, seven chairs and a rectangular conference table at the far end. Gunmen were standing by the low wall outside. One sat at a small desk in the hallway.

"Chairman Arafat telephoned me last night," he says. "I can't call him from Sidon so he calls me. He asked about the military situation but he always asks about our social lives here. I speak with him all the time." And will Mr Arafat come himself to Sidon now that the Palestinian conference in Algiers has—at least

in theory—unified the PLO and opened the way to rapprochement with Syria?

"We hope to meet in Palestine, not in Sidon," he replies immediately, and he watches to see if his words have been understood. "But if he comes to Sidon, he should go to Beirut too because Arafat is the symbol of the PLO in Lebanon. Syria, Iraq, in all the Arab world and in many European countries. So our office in Beirut—which was closed in 1982—should be opened again so that Arafat can come to see his half-million people in Lebanon again. But he will not stay in Lebanon because we in the camps do not intend to stay in Lebanon."

It was all said in a simple, logical way, as if returning to the land he calls Palestine would be no more difficult than applying for a visa or buying an air ticket. But it was also said in deadly earnest.

About the PLO's new "unity" and the possibility of renewed relations with Syria, Mr Wehbe is nothing but

pragmatic. "Our Palestinian defence of Chatila camp in Beirut for months against the Amal militia, who fought for Syria, brought about our unity," he says. "There would have been no unity without Chatila. We don't recognize the Syrians as our enemies. Syrian history, geography, the people and Army of Syria are beside the Palestinians. But we will confront every outside power that tries to destroy our security in the camps."

Mr Wehbe takes his time to come to the point. "The Syrian Government," he says eventually, "have done their best to put the Palestinians in their pocket but we stood against this. And Syria's relations with the Palestinians must come through the PLO itself, not us. The Syrians tried to meet us here in Sidon. But I refused. Relations should come through Arafat, through the PLO. This is a clear political agreement."

Another agreement in which Mr Wehbe expressed exceptional in-

terest was the Cairo pact of 1969 which permitted the Palestinians to use Lebanon as a base for attack on Israel. He regards it as still in existence although he acknowledges that the Lebanese population with more respect than they did before 1982.

It is all spiced stuff for a man who left his home 35 years ago and who, in 1981, stood on a hill in southern Lebanon, looked across the Israeli-Lebanese frontier and, he says, actually saw his home village on the other side. His family are still inside Israel, "refugees inside their own country of Palestine."

Now he travels everywhere but there— to Europe, even to the TUC conference in Britain. "I spoke for 10 minutes to Michael Foot of the Labour Party," he says. "I have visited your Parliament."

With the Syrians to the north of him and the hostile Amal militia to the south, he can not now even leave the camps of Sidon.

González peace offer to unions

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, denied charges that he is governing "against the trade unions" and offered to talk to their leaders, including the Communist Party, in a gesture well-timed for today's May Day demonstrations.

But he warned the unions that there will be no letting up in the Government's fight to cut the inflation rate, now 6.3 per cent, because Spain must compete for its livelihood in the European Community.

Señor González had decided to appear on state television on Wednesday night after criticism of his aloofness and failure to intervene in the wave of strikes.

Before an audience of millions, he offered an image of flexibility, admitting his Government was not always in the right.

Spain's trade unions were advised by Señor González on television to emulate their more productivity-oriented West German colleagues, and all Spaniards were told they must create more national wealth before demanding better social services.

"Sometimes I have the impression we are still living in a democracy of only demanding our rights and not of assuming our responsibilities."

The Prime Minister invited the unions to regulate their strike procedures. The Government would prefer this, he said, to going ahead with the promised strike Bill in Parliament.

Italian Army demoralized by low pay and brain drain

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Maurizio Rungi, aged 20, committed suicide last week. From a simple family in southern Italy, Signor Rungi had landed his first job but was forced to abandon it when he was called up for military service. A nervous breakdown, a young corpse hanging from household rope, a private tragedy.

But Signor Rungi's case is more than that. The morale of the Italian Army has dropped so low that young Italians now dread call-up papers. Military service has become more than a temporary inconvenience; it is now a fearsome, nerve-racking experience for many.

Reports are filtering out of hunger strikes in the barracks. Officers have been demonstrating outside the President's Palace. Protest posters and clandestinely printed pamphlets circulate in army headquarters.

The military trade union—the COCER, or Central Committee of Military Representatives—began to agitate for more money last October but demonstrations and effective lobbying were launched only recently.

The problem is primarily, but not solely, about pay. A senior captain with 12 or 13 years of service earns 1,400,000 lire a month (£700) and a lieutenant-colonel serving as a battalion commander brings in 1,700,000 lire (£850) a month.

Such a colonel commands 4,000 men and has to be knowledgeable about military and civilian law, must solve complicated administrative problems and attend con-

ferences regularly at his own expense. Even with subsidized housing, the salary is not high.

The situation is particularly bad for those who work with civilians. An officer in charge of Ragusa harbour recently wrote to his union: "Our situation is becoming intolerable. Every day, between 08.00 and 14.00 hours, we run the port for the merchant navy (all incoming and outgoing movements, control of fishing fleets, and so on), and as the port is also a military base we have our duties for the Defence Ministry, too. Then, on

top of our civilian and military responsibilities, we often have to attend judicial inquiries. Do we really have to serve and be at the disposal of everyone?"

The result is a haemorrhaging of military personnel into the civilian sector. More and more officers are buying themselves out of the services. An air force colonel laments: "When Alitalia (the civilian airline) beckons, there is a stampede, an exodus of pilots. For us, it's billions of lire worth of training gone up in smoke."

The soldiers are the victims both of the Italian government crisis—which has delayed the pay settlement that would at least give the Army parity with the police—and of an identity crisis. Defeated in the Second World War, the Army cannot

boast a wealth of recent combative glory.

The Army is also becoming a highly technical organization. That is creating frustration and lowering the prestige of the armed services.

As a result of this transformation, the demands of officers and soldiers have taken on a civilian flavour. Neither the soldier nor his wife wants to put up with the routine sacrifices of life in the armed services. A sergeant's wife from Treviso wrote in a letter of complaint to the Parliamentary Defence Commission: "Our life is hell. It is a long sacrifice in the name of an ideal in which only my husband continues to believe."

Italian women, who have recently taken a bigger part in business and political life, are forced to give up their careers or accept separation because the Army is insensitive to their needs. The problem is compounded by the fact that even senior officers often rely on the salary of their wives to provide an adequate income.

Even Italian soldiers cannot go on full-scale strike. But the frequent suicides, the public demonstrations and the increasing tendency of officers to voice their grievances in the press—once taboo as in Britain—is putting the Government under a great deal of pressure. Or at least it would be if there were a government. Since the resignation of the Craxi Government on March 3, there has been only a caretaker, and largely absentee, Defence Minister.

Hollywood's real-life court drama in final stage

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

It is a trial that has set Hollywood on its ear and the outcome is awaited with trepidation in a community that makes its living creating celluloid fantasy and chaos.

After well over 100 days of evidence lasting nearly eight months, the curtain is about to come down on Hollywood's longest-running real-life drama. A jury must decide whether or not the well-known director, John Landis, who has made millions from films like *Trading Places* and *The Blues Brothers*, and four of his colleagues are guilty of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the deaths on July 23 1982 of the actor Vic Morrow, aged 53, and two Vietnamese youngsters, Rezae

Chen, aged six, and Myca Dinh Le, seven.

The marathon hearing has also put Hollywood's film makers on trial for there are those who claim that film-makers are sacrificing the safety of actors in pursuit of special effects.

The Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney, Mrs Lea Purwin D'Agostino, is one of those who believe unnecessary risks were taken by Landis. Paul Steward, the co-ordinator of special effects for the \$20 million *Twilight Zone* film, George Folsey Jr, a producer, Dan Allingham, the film's production manager and Doreen Wingo, the man who flew the helicopter that crashed on



Mr Landis: admits illegally hiring child actors.

Morrow and the youngsters in the early hours of the morning nearly five years ago. Landis, Folsey and Allingham are also accused of taking children on to the film set in

violation of California laws on child labour.

In her closing argument Mrs D'Agostino said that the testimony of Mr Landis was "a huge blatant lie". She branded the actions of the first defendants as "barbaric", and compared their use of actors to the ancient Roman practice of sacrificing gladiators.

Mr Landis and the other defendants have contended that they were not negligent on the night of filming. "That fatal scene should have gone off without a hitch," said Mr Landis's lawyer, Mr James Neal.

The key event that led to the crash, he said, was the failure of a special effects technician, Mr James Camomile, to pinpoint where exactly the heli-

copter was when he set off an explosion. One of the explosions sent a fireball into the helicopter and pieces of the blazing plane fell on to the actors.

Mr Camomile, who was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for testifying, said that his concern for the safety of the actors led to his losing sight of the helicopter.

Testifying in his own defence, Mr Landis, aged 36, admitted he had hired the two child actors illegally, but said he had no reason to believe the scene would be dangerous.

Several pending multi-million dollar wrongful death lawsuits filed by the families of the three killed may also hinge on the jury's verdict.

Ramadan raids

Dhaka—Muslim fanatics stormed at least 12 restaurants in old Dhaka, smashing tea cups and upturning tables and forcing the owners to stop selling food as Bangladeshis began a day of fasting for Ramadan.

Hirohito rests

Tokyo (Reuters)—Emperor Hirohito, who felt ill at a luncheon celebrating his 86th birthday, was resting yesterday, but his health was normal, imperial palace officials said.

Cheque charge

Singapore (Reuters)—Mohamed Younus, aged 48, a Bangladeshi businessman, has been charged with cashing 600 stolen cheques worth more than £60,000 meant for Mother Teresa's charity work among the poor of Calcutta.



Senator Steve Symms pointing to the new complex in Washington he wants Soviet diplomats moved out of.

US-Soviet bugging saga

Senators want Moscow embassy pulled down

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The new American Embassy chancery in Moscow should be demolished and rebuilt because so many Soviet listening devices have been planted in its walls and floors, the Senate Intelligence Committee has recommended.

The building, which is nearly completed but has a host of structural faults, has so far cost about \$23 million (£14.4 million). "Bugs" have been found throughout the structure, and the committee decided that it could never be made secure.

Senator David Boren, the committee chairman, said that it was "time to stop the bug-pushing, make a decision, demolish that building while we can still do it at a minimum cost, and start over."

The committee also voted 15-0 in favour of eight specific recommendations to overhaul and improve the State Department's entire embassy security system. It went to support President Reagan's announcement that the Soviet Union would be forbidden to occupy its new, nearly-completed chancery in Washington until the US chancery is ready for occupation.

Senator Boren described US officials who oversaw the embassy construction as "in-

credibly inept, naive and irresponsible". Soviet officials had checked the complex in Washington for bugging, but the US had failed to do the same in Moscow.

Mr Robert Lamb, the State Department's senior officer in charge of embassy security, told Congress that the Soviet Union had wired transmitting devices into the building's superstructure, something US officials did not foresee.

The intelligence committee also recommended shorter tours of duty for US Marine guards and the ending of the employment of foreign nationals at embassies in Eastern Europe countries. It said that the US should consider removing Soviet and American citizens occupying living quarters at their respective new embassy complexes until security concerns are resolved.

Senator Steve Symms and Representative Richard Armey, both Republicans, have introduced identical resolutions directing the President to scrap the 1969 and 1972 agreements under which the new US and Soviet embassies were built.

The congressmen want the Soviet Union to be forced to move from the new complex at Mount Alto, the second highest point in Washington,

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FRIDAY PAGE

Who gets the baby? One law for porn

A private American adoption system is encouraging mothers to choose and form close relationships with prospective parents, says Donna Leigh-Kile

Carol, a 26-year-old pregnant mother of two, studies a folder containing the personal and often poignant résumés of 14 couples who want to adopt her baby. Some are more detailed than others, enclosing photos not only of themselves, their homes and their pets, but their families and friends too. They are among the many infertile couples in America, most commonly middle-class professionals in their thirties and forties who are seeking a white, healthy infant at a time when surrogacy is increasingly viewed as a very risky business, and foreign adoptions are often tortuously slow.

Carol is one of a growing number of women who have opted for an "open" adoption, which allows her to meet and choose the adoptive parents of her unborn child. "Birth" mother and adoptive mother are encouraged to develop a close relationship that sometimes results in both mothers-to-be being present at the birth of "their" baby.

Steering Carol through the process is Dawn Smith-Pliner, a kindergarten teacher and founder of the one-year-old Friends in Adoption, a small, non-profit group based at Pawlet, Vermont, which advises adoptive couples on how best to seek out pregnant women who wish to relinquish their babies.

Carol is the 12th case Smith-Pliner has handled since Christmas and probably the 40th since she started part-time counselling seven years ago for a different group, after swiftly adopting two children of her own: Isaac, six, and Aurajoy, seven.

In open adoption, "birth" parents and prospective adoptive couples deal with each other directly without involving state or private agencies. Instead, they are usually assisted by a doctor or lawyer and increasingly, support groups like Friends in Adoption.

For an annual fee of \$15, couples wishing to adopt become members of Friends in Adoption. They can attend seminars and lectures, receive leaflets and their résumés are placed in Dawn's file. For \$25-\$35 she will help write them. The résumés are sent to pregnant women who have approached Friends in Adoption with a view to having their child adopted.

When the real mother has made her selection, she will meet the parents who hope to adopt her child. Couples are not encouraged, however, to sit back and hope a birth mother will pick them out. Dawn recommends that "babies wanted" cards on bulletin boards in department stores, women's health centres, laundromats, and in her view, the two best places of all, the 24-hour supermarket and the local free newspaper.

While this active pursuit is perfectly legal in Vermont, it is prohibited in 15 states where adoptions without agencies are banned for fear of baby selling. It is also far removed from the British system of adoption where procedures are strictly laid down by law. All adoptions have to be done through private agencies, many of which are social service departments.

Daphne Norbury, of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, said: "The major difference between our two systems is that here it is the welfare of the child that is paramount in any adoption, although the views of the natural parents are taken into



Family of smiles: Dawn Smith-Pliner, founder of Friends in Adoption, with her two children Isaac and Aurajoy

account and meetings can take place between them and the prospective parents. Private adoptions are certainly not allowed and advertising would not be permitted.

According to Vermont law, when prospective parents link up with a birth mother, they are allowed to pay her medical, legal and counselling expenses. They can also invite the birth mother and father to live with them until the baby is born.

Once the baby is born, the birth mother has as much time as she wishes to sign the relinquishment papers. After this she has a further three days to change her mind. In Dawn's experience, the women who "relinquish" their babies (she doesn't like the phrase "give-up") are equally divided between married couples and single women.

Carol, who is seven-and-a-half months pregnant, is married to Roy, a 28-year-old construction worker. With two young children already, they are struggling hard to make ends meet.

When Carol discovered she was pregnant again, she wanted to have an abortion. "But the hospital wouldn't take me in before Christmas and by the time I was offered a bed I was too far along," Carol had considered an ordinary adoption but quickly dismissed it. Subsequently, she heard about Friends in Adoption through a woman's health centre. "It's much easier for me to know what will happen to my baby, who and where he is going to. I tell me do all I can to make sure he will be getting what we can't give him right now."

Aware that grief will follow the adoption, Carol consoles herself with the belief that not knowing where her child was would be "like having a child that is missing. I couldn't bear the thought of wondering 'Is he in a foster home?' or, worse still, mixed up in some black market deal. I don't want money. I just want my baby to have a good, respectable home and the love and care from a couple who can't have any."

Ironically, Carol is finding out that

there is less stigma attached to being an unmarried mother or even surrogate mother than a woman who is "prepared to give up her own flesh and blood."

"I can't make my mother and friends realize I am giving up this baby out of love. I want people to know I'm a normal woman, but I find it easier to tell them I'm a surrogate mother. They seem to understand that and leave me alone."

Two weeks after our interview Carol met her chosen adoptive couple for the first time, 36-year-old Billie Howe and her lawyer husband Greg, 37, from Morgan, Vermont. Having spent four-and-a-half years fertility testing, they were exhausted and discouraged before they even embarked on the adoption process.

"We're still pursuing the in-vitro procedure but when we realized it would be at least a year wait, we decided to try and adopt at the same time," says Billie.

Before meeting Dawn, and through her Carol, they had been telephoning a state agency in Burlington, Vermont, once a month for a year, but

the agency wouldn't even put them on their list since it was already too long. Now that they have found Carol, the Howes are keen to cement the relationship. Billie would "love" to be present at the birth, "but it would be entirely up to Carol and her husband."

Billie's greatest concern is for the adoption to go through. "It's very much a case of goodwill and trust on both sides because before relinquishment there is really no legal obligation on anybody."

Dawn has been involved in cases where a birth mother has kept the child but the majority go through with their adoption plan.

Dawn believes that open adoption will prevail over all other methods simply because it remains the option most Americans can comfortably live with, ethically and financially.

It can be completed in months rather than years, and, says Dawn Smith-Pliner: "The birth mother and prospective adoptive parent are in control, which is how it should be."

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The pornography debate is heating up and all I am filled with is a tremendous weariness. I have a basic aversion to censorship, of course, and know that one man's *Democritus* is another's *Penthouse*, but still the issue won't cease. I tried to perk myself up with a quick fix of *Arco* magazine, but I can't believe that Milton was talking about magazines like *Kinky World* or *Conan* *Panties* and *Bare Bottoms*.

I saw those magazines when I made the mandatory magazine-run of sleaze shops in Soho and a very depressing experience it was. The porn shops have dreary racks of videos with naked housewives tied up, and looking curiously sanguine. There are motley collections of books for sale, as well, and I purchased a copy of the feminist tract *Why Men Rape* with a foreword by Jill Tweedie. "You can have it for 95p," said the man behind the cash register, which was £1 off the cover price. It turned out that Tweedie's solution to the problem of rape is to feminize them by having them share child-rearing chores, which may not please Esther Rantzen.

One of the great arguments of the anti-censorship people is that it is very difficult to draw the line between smut and art. This has always seemed utter nonsense to me. Pornography may be difficult to define, but I cleave to the "I know it when I see it" school of thought, and one trip to any of these shops does the trick. Theoretically, as a classical liberal in temperament, I should object to obscenity laws, but in fact I don't mind having some available to deal with material that might be truly out of time and place. Even a libertarian like myself has to draw the line at the idea of selling this awful smut to children, and I would find it silly if the law were powerless to stop that.

Meanwhile, Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burnwood, has been pushing his private member's Bill, which would both extend the definition of what is obscene to include material that is "grossly offensive", and extend the scope of the Obscene Publications Act to radio and television. In opposition to his efforts, a committee of writers and arts institutions have launched themselves, under the leadership of Michael Grade. The two sides are



BARBARA AMIEL

facing off, with Howarth claiming to speak for the people, and the writers claiming to speak for liberty. These two constituencies ought not to be mutually exclusive, so one of the sides is misinformed; while I rather like Howarth, I'm afraid it may be him.

Though Howarth's Bill would have some effect on magazine pornography, the aim closest to his heart is to change what appears on our television sets. "Do you think that there is an outburst of obscenity on television?" I asked him. Well, yes he did. He talked about the famous bare bottom in *The Singing Detective* and the prevalence of bad language. Closer

Even a libertarian like myself has to draw the line at the idea of selling this awful smut to children

questioning makes it clear that what "grossly offends" him is the depiction of values and life-styles he doesn't like, such as homosexuality and vandalism.

"Programmes like *EastEnders*," he said, "depict deviation as a normal way of life... there are vast numbers of families in this country where there is fidelity in marriage, where children are brought up to be God-fearing and to respect other people's property, and where people don't get drunk every time they go to the pub." The essence of Howarth's argument, it seems, is that television does not adequately reflect community standards.

Well, it may not reflect community reality (popular culture rarely does) but alas it may well reflect community

standards of taste. Television does not create bandwagons, it follows them. *EastEnders* wouldn't be the smash hit it is without community approval. Canada has the very legislation Howarth proposes, and yet virtually all the jury trials to date have been acquittals or the silliest kind of trade-off, like the recent decision over 16 soft-porn video tapes in which eight tapes were declared legal and eight illegal. I saw clips of the material and for the life of me, I couldn't see why *Wanda Whips Wall Street* was all right and *Cathy Conquers Chicago* was banned — or the other way round.

In fact, there really doesn't seem to be any violent or vile pornography on our television screens, only occasional lapses of taste. Howarth and Mrs Mary Whitehouse use the spectre of grossly offensive pornography, I fear, as a red herring in order to get approval for regulations which would let government and its quangos permeate every branch of the arts and entertainments industry in order to remake the values of society according to their lights. Television, largely dependent on government, would quickly become self-censoring.

What Howarth does not seem to appreciate is that his legislation is a two-edged sword. Left-wing governments, or lobby groups like the feminists, could easily seize it in order to make sure that any programme showing, for example, the happiness of a traditional marriage, was outlawed as deviant — unless the wife is agitating for a "home-makers" pension and the husband does the washing up. This is where the socialist and the conservative are really birds of a feather. It doesn't matter that their values are diametrically opposed; they both believe they have the right to enforce them on the arts.

Though personally I share most of Howarth's and Mrs Whitehouse's values, I really must draw the line at a *de facto* attempt to define opposition to our values as obscenity. This is one of the most fundamental ways in which an autocratic society is enforced. I don't think much of a script that makes Dot, the only practising Christian on *EastEnders*, into a loony, unpleasant gossip. But she must find rehabilitation through a genuine change in the zeitgeist, not legislation — and the growing respectability of the views of Mrs Whitehouse and Howarth indicates that that is already under way.

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Man and his big ego

Every now and then I think deeply about the sex war, without reaching any useful conclusions. In the animal kingdom, male and female moles dislike each other so much that they can afford only the briefest moment for the purposes of procreation, and must part hastily before they find themselves engaged in mortal combat.

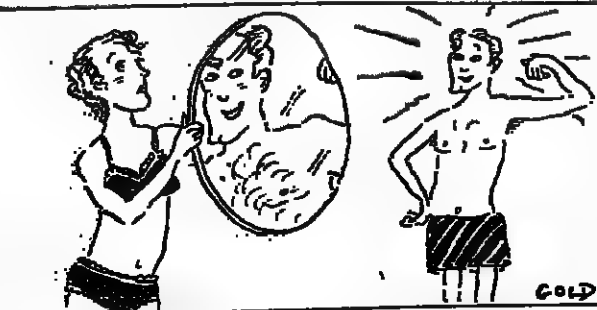
However animals are even stranger to us than we are to ourselves, and there is nothing to be gained of self-knowledge in contemplating their arcane behaviour.

No, the study proper to mankind is man, and I do not propose to waste time by adding "and woman". I accept that the term embraces both sexes and do not lie awake at night worrying about it; what I do worry about is my instinctive conviction that all conflict — tribal, racial, inter-continental — is a reflection of the incomprehension between the sexes.

Sally Cline and Dale Spender have addressed themselves to this ancient problem in their book *Reflecting Men — At Twice Their Natural Size*. It makes melancholy reading; and it will make everybody cross — women at the reminder of the myriad ways in which they are exploited and abused, and men because they don't see it that way.

The title comes from Vir-

Why do women seem born to suffer?
Alice Thomas Ellis ponders their lot



ginia Woolf: "Women have served all these centuries as looking glasses, possessing the magic and delicious power of reflecting the figure of a man at twice its natural size". Women do of course perform this service. But they also have another equally important role. Ever since the craven Adam uttered "Lord the woman tempted me", woman has been used as a scapegoat, as a dustbin for those qualities which men do not care to acknowledge in themselves. Thus — women are gossipy, devious, spiteful, and incapable of friendship with each other.

I was pleased to find Dale Spender robustly tackling the first imputation at the beginning of the book. It must always have been obvious to anyone with ears that men talk much, much more than

women and also constantly interrupt. As for deviousness, some of the ways which men impose their wishes on women are scarcely credible: yawning, belching, cutting off the house-keeping money, and giving her a straightforward good thrashing (legally permissible until the last century).

I think the idea that women don't like each other arose because they don't form themselves into clubs. Males are much given to forming themselves into clubs and playing games; but women don't need to. They pose no threat to each other and so do not require the safeguards of organizational rules.

Neither, while we're on the subject, are they as vain or as touchy as men. A woman, on being told that she is no good in bed, will probably burst

into tears; but don't try telling a man that, unless you want your head knocked off. But here we come to the crux of the matter. Even if she does not fear violence, a woman will seldom denigrate a man's sexual prowess. Why?

Beryl Bainbridge and I once puzzled for hours over this question. She had been approached by a man offering to give her the treat of her life by whisking her into bed. What she wanted to tell him was that he was a shambling ape with onion-scented breath, filthy fingernails and repellent political affiliations, but she couldn't. I think she said she had a headache. In the end we decided that she had stayed her hand out of compassion.

I asked a man why he thought women considered it incumbent on them to flatter and cajole and stamp around the bedroom in a suspender belt after a hard day's work in the office, followed by a pile of ironing and the cooking of a three-course meal. He explained wearily that men have to perform a certain function and in order to do so they need some stimulus, and I did see the justice in that. How depressing to think that all our sad destiny hangs on a matter of simple hydraulics.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987
Reflecting Men At Twice Their Natural Size by Sally Cline and Dale Spender (Andre Deutsch, £9.95)

THE TIMES DIARY

Cushioning Sir Clive

While Whitehall has tipped Sir Clive Whitmore, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, to succeed Sir Robert Armstrong as head of the civil service and Cabinet Secretary, the Prime Minister has gone out of her way to protect him. By asking Sir Robert to stay on until after the election, past his official retirement date, she has ensured that Whitmore, her former FPS and reckoned to be a highly efficient and loyal servant, would not be abruptly removed from office in the event of a Labour victory. I am told that the meritocratic Sir Clive — unlike his immediate predecessors a grammar school boy whose 1954 report said he had "a fine intellect, his initiative was excellent and he showed a readiness to take on responsibility" — would be a good Cabinet Secretary. But he is no more likely than Sir Robert to tub thump in the interests of the pay and conditions of the men from the ministries. Time to split the two jobs, say the mandarins.

Distraction

The British public's twin obsessions — the weather and television — could play a vital role in a general election held on June 11. In June 1970 Harold Wilson blamed a break in the weather and the screening of *Stepie and Son* for a slump in the Labour vote, traditionally more vulnerable to inclement temperatures. This time the electioneers may have to battle with television's most popular show *EastEnders*, which has an average Thursday audience of around 18 million. Meanwhile the Prime Minister is considering cutting short her trip to the Venice economic summit which starts on June 8, for fear that her absence so close to polling day might be thought "inconspicuous" towards the electorate. And the weather? The Met Office will not stick its neck out.

Precedent

Oxford University is set to break a 350-year-old tradition next Tuesday when Congregation chooses its first vice-chancellor in 350 years who is not a college head. Sir Richard Southwood, professor of zoology, will, if his sole nomination is approved, succeed Sir Patrick Neill in 1989. Until 1969 the university's statutes required that its vice-chancellor be a college head, a qualification which until now has survived.

Sparkling form

Edwina Currie, junior health minister, anti-smoking campaigner and scourge of the northern fannies, yesterday turned her sights on the quality of water. After meeting regional health authorities in Manchester, she rejected a glass of Malvern water proffered in a local hotel, asking what was wrong with something from the tap. Waitresses had earlier been seen scurrying away with the ashtrays set out for reporters.



One slogan at last week's Scottish TUC in Perth, where this picture of an upper gallery delegate was taken, was: "The sleeping giant has woken".

New ground

Adam Smith must be whirling in his grave. Madsen Pirie, president of the free-enterprise Adam Smith Institute, has just written to Mikhail Gorbachev offering his organization's expertise in privatizing Soviet businesses. "Frankly, there is not much left to do in Britain and life here is pretty boring," Pirie wrote. "We are looking for new challenges, and your assault on bureaucratic sluggishness and ineptitude is just the sort of project we wish to support." Yesterday, he reminded me defensively that Gorbachev was known for his sense of humour.

Crossed line

Workers at Labour's Walworth Road headquarters should not celebrate too much the end of weeks of telephone chaos caused by the installation of their new switchboard. I predict a row when Labour's comrades in the National Communications Union, who represent British Telecom workers, hear that Labour picked Norton Telecommunications to do the work. Although Norton does not bar staff from joining unions, it does not recognize them in negotiations. Yesterday, Labour assured me that Norton landed the contract on the understanding that only union members would work on the project. As engineers entered the building, most I understood, flashed an EEP7 card. BT, which is fully unionized, bid for the job but failed.

PHS

Victoria — one agony spared

The dilemma over whether or not a mentally handicapped girl should be sterilized is one that, mercifully, most parents never have to face. My wife and I were spared that agonizing decision, but only because death intervened and took our daughter away before the question could arise.

We have been following the case of the teenage girl and the debate on her future with the emotional involvement that only parents who have had a mentally handicapped child can begin to understand.

Sometimes we have been angered to read the comments of others who have little or no idea what being responsible for such a child is really like.

Victoria was ten years old when she died. She lived all her short life in hospitals or nursing homes. She never learned to speak, so communication was impossible. We have asked ourselves, many times, what we would have done if we had been faced with the situation presented by the Sunderland girl.

Would we have sought sterilization for Victoria? Would we have agreed to such an operation if it had been recommended to us by doctors? Would we have been deterred by those who, apparently with the best of motives, campaign against it? Would we have left it to the courts to decide what was best for our child, and for the potential children she might one day have borne?

The views of the parents must, we believe, take first place over the opinions of all others. Of course they can and should be given advice, and the beliefs of others who take an opposing stance

After the Law Lords' ruling in the teenage sterilization case, golfer and television commentator Peter Alliss considers what he and his wife would have done had their brain-damaged daughter lived long enough to pose the same problem

should be heard. But who can speak better for a child who has no voice of his own than his mother and father? Only they can know the enormous problems that arise, not just for the child, but for the other members of the family. We deeply sympathize with the mother in this case. From what we know, she is a caring, loving woman who wants to protect her daughter against the chances of giving birth to a child she would be incapable of rearing. The social services and medical experts involved share her anxieties.

We think we understand the fears of those who argue that the decision of the courts could in some way open the doors to callous treatment of the mentally handicapped. But our experience of devoted doctors and nurses, and of other families in similar circumstances, makes us confident that we are a more responsible and caring society than some people suspect.

Victoria was born with dis-



trous damage to her central nervous system. We had no foreknowledge of her condition, and we were stunned when it was diagnosed. She looked normal, but she hardly moved, and didn't cry. She was almost like a little doll. Specialists told us she was unlikely to live more than two or three years. Victoria exceeded those expectations, but she needed permanent, professional care. She could never be a part of the family. All we could do was visit her, two or three times a week, for the rest of her life.

We went through all kinds of conscience-searching, wondering whether we had somehow been to blame, questioning whether we were doing all we could, asking ourselves if we were being selfish in our attitudes towards her. The strains on any family in this position are enormous. Even if the burden of daily care is taken over by professionals, life is forever changed. Marriages have foundered as a result.

We had to ask ourselves if we should have any more children. The risks, we were told, were one in three of having another similarly handicapped baby. We decided to try, because we loved children and wanted a bigger family. We already had a perfectly healthy daughter, who is now 15. Advances in science made possible the early detection of abnormality in pregnancy.

My wife had four more pregnancies, two of which were terminated because abnormalities were detected in the womb. The two others produced our boys, now aged 12 and four, who are completely unaffected.

They have vindicated our decision. Having made that choice, we are in a position to advocate sterilization for a mentally handicapped teenager? To deny to children human beings what we want for ourselves? All we can say, truthfully, is what we believe we would have done. We would have looked at our daughter, and tried to look to the future. I feel sure that we would have decided in favour of sterilization. I believe that most, if not all, parents upon whom such a decision was thrust would come to the same conclusion, however painfully.

The judgement yesterday was, we believe, the correct one, taken with compassion in the best interests of the girl concerned. But we believe it was a unique case, and that should not set a precedent. There should be no sweeping law. Each case in the future, and sadly there will be many, must be judged on its own merits.

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The shadow Chancellor talks to Robin Oakley about his blueprint for Britain

Hattersley's new realism

If Labour wins the general election and Roy Hattersley moves into No 11 Downing Street, voters will not be able to complain that they were not warned of his intentions. No other shadow Chancellor can have set out his plans so clearly as Hattersley has done in his new book, *Economic Priorities for a Labour Government*, published by Macmillan.

It is all there: £3.6 billion to be raised from those earning over £25,000 a year to pay for an anti-poverty programme; £6 billion to try to reduce unemployment by one million within two years; plans to force the repatriation of overseas investment portfolios by threatening to withdraw fiscal privileges; new rules to police the City; the forced channelling of funds to an industrial investment bank; and the reversal of tax cuts in favour of increased public spending.

Doug Jones, Hattersley's assistant, describes the policies in an introduction as "a coherent, consistent and radical set of practical proposals for a society that will rapidly become more socialist". But Labour's trauma over Militant, defence policy and fringe issues like black sections have masked just how far Labour's economic policy has changed since the disastrous 1983 election manifesto.

Hattersley admits his intention to interfere with market forces, but gone are the whole raft of grandiose, uncashed claims for the pie which Labour was to pluck from the sky: the commitment to leave the EEC; the promised panoply of another price commission; the five-year national plan and the tripartite national planning council; the commitments to nationalize electronics, pharmaceuticals, health equipment and building materials.

Hattersley is candid about past mistakes. In 1983, he says, the public admired Labour's compassion but doubted its capacity. It simply did not believe that unemployment could be reduced by over two million. But does not Labour's poor opinion poll rating argue that the public takes the same view now? I don't believe it is the same order of problem, he told me yesterday. "Our policy is very different from 1983. It is a many ways less ambitious. Nobody would dream of suggesting now, he says, that unemployment could be ended in a single parliament. But polls show that Labour's now comparatively modest one million target is regarded as achievable.

But does the working majority care enough to bring Labour back to power? With one million

Rather than the occasion on which socialists mark their solidarity with labour around the world, May Day has become just another holiday. This is as true of the rest of Western Europe as of Britain, whatever European socialists might claim. There are, of course, plenty of rallies and meetings, but like all rallies and meetings, they are attended by activists only. Political commitment, like religious commitment, is the affair of small minorities.

Secularisation has transformed Christ's birthday into the target date for an ever expanding number of shopping days; the day of his death a signal for an increased consumption of chocolate eggs. No one should be surprised, then, if May Day has lost its political connotations for all except a few.

Contrary to what many believe, May Day was an American invention, not European. In December 1885 the US trade union congress decided that on May 1 of the following year massive demonstrations would be held throughout the country to support demands for an eight-hour day. It was not until eight months later, at the inaugural congress of the Second International Working Men's Association in Paris, that Europe responded. The purpose of



having bought their council houses and millions more with a stake in capitalism through the privatization of state industries, is not Labour's social base eroding?

Hattersley says the compassion is still there. The employed are worried about the unemployed, the well-housed about the homeless. It is common sense also. With 85 per cent of people reliant on the NHS and 94 per cent on state schools, "people do have an interest in all the things which tax cuts can't buy".

There is another element. Hattersley believes that whatever Mrs Thatcher might say, unemployment and deprivation increase crime. "The well to do in Sutton Coldfield have a vested interest in avoiding another Handsworth riot".

Why then does he believe the Conservatives are so determined to cut tax? "I suspect that the party faithful are telling Mrs Thatcher that the milk of Conservatism is tax cuts. She is not listening to the people she should be listening to — the floating voters".

But why should the ordinary voter with a job and a mortgage vote for a party which seems to be concerned only with single-issue minorities?

"Part of the problem of 1983 was that we didn't seem to be interested in the man who prefers washing his car to going to a union

branch meeting." Labour's policies, now, he insists, are all to do with the political mainstream; with jobs, houses, hospitals and schools.

There are plenty of intriguing ideas in Hattersley's working brief, such as the commitment to separate taxation for man and wife. If Nigel Lawson's estimations are correct, says Hattersley, that can be done rapidly. He wants a Marks and Spencer purchasing policy, using the government's spending power to put British firms into production what is needed. He pledges to scrap the present public sector borrowing requirement and substitute a balance sheet showing public assets against liabilities. That would reveal what is happening to infrastructure repairs and when asset sales are being used to finance tax cuts.

He puts a strong case for providing Britain with an industrial investment bank because, he says, the present financial institutions are more concerned with making easy money on property speculation than for people to make their own choice.

What astonishes me is the separateness of the City from the rest of the economy, compared with the involvement of the institutions in other countries. Many would support Hattersley's call for legislation to make pension fund trustees, who escape

behind a doctor-like mystique, more accountable to members.

What will disturb some Labour activists is the absence from the book of left-wing jargon and the constant emphasis on the need not to let inflation rip, coupled with warnings to the unions that there is no mutual back-scratching deal available. The unions, says Hattersley, will not be given the chance to grab any of that £6 billion for inflated wage claims. "The pattern of wage negotiations is going to be determined by negotiations in the public sector which begin the round". He insists that "there is no spare money about for huge wage increases".

He also has a warning for the local authorities looking to a Labour government to bail them out. Labour has no more intention than the Tories of having its economic policies pre-empted by the town halls. "We have to get an arrangement with the local authorities. There cannot be a free-for-all for spending."

The arrangement will be voluntary, says Hattersley, but he is sure he will get it. But that betrays the same kind of optimism as when he declares that "trade union members, whose co-operation is crucial, will give the Labour government a chance. If we can do other things, if we can say because there were not unreasonable wage increases your pensions are up and your schools are better, I think we will preserve that implied compact between unions and government."

Perhaps for a while they will. But under Mrs Thatcher's government ministers used to call that the "social wage", and it was not long before voters said they wanted more of that wage left in their own pockets.

Hattersley's book is an honest attempt to prove that Labour has acquired realism and responsibility. A constant litany throughout is "there can be no dash for growth" and "we can only proceed as quickly as the inflation constraints allow". He clearly means it when he says "the socialism in which I passionately believe is a liberating process to give ordinary people the choices they are currently denied. I am opposed to what are popularly called controls... [Socialism] ought to provide the framework for people to make their own choice".

But the doubts which, the opinion polls suggest, still remain in voters' minds are how long they would be allowed to exercise that choice, and how much support Hattersley would receive from his party.

rock upon which the church of the future would be built" was the slogan carried on one of the German marches. In Germany the first May days were supposed to be silent, with workers occupying the streets to demonstrate the maturity, strength and resilience of the labour movement.

Today the band of the committed is dwindling not only because socialism is in crisis but because it is undergoing a much needed change of language. Many of its supporters are only too keen to get rid of traditional rituals of old proletarian socialism. In the computer designed socialism of the future there does not seem to be much room for crowded May Day rallies, picnics in which socialists do things for a living — like engineers and footballers, car salesmen, jobbing builders and the rest. I certainly don't have always felt, beside them, an inferiority which the brain drain has reflected, by and large. They are the masters now.

The point I am trying to make, however, is that as long as the brain drain swallowed only the scientists and the engineers among us, there was a logic which was easily understandable. One could readily understand why the United States sought orthopaedic surgeons or haematologists — as opposed to the students of Catullus, the Tudor historians or the specialists in Shakespearean fish imagery.

Donald Sassoon

The author is a lecturer in history at W. Haff College, University of London.

John Grigg

Disraeli and the lone rangers

One of the most hackneyed of all political sayings is Disraeli's that "England does not love coalitions." With the possibility of a hung parliament after the general election, hardly a day passes without somebody quoting it in a speech or article, as though it were a self-evident truth. But to what extent is it really true? Are coalitions, to judge from the evidence, markedly more unpopular in Britain than party governments?

For a start, it is worth recalling the circumstances in which Disraeli's remark was made, because they have a bearing on the question. He was speaking as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the purely Conservative government of 1852 (the first he belonged to) and was fighting to save his budget, against which a majority in the House was about to vote.

"The combination may be successful," he said. "A coalition has before this been successful. But coalitions though successful have always found this, that their triumph has been brief. This too I know, that England does not love coalitions."

His budget was defeated and the Tory government fell after only ten months in office. The government that took its place was a coalition of Whigs and Peelites, and Disraeli had only one brief interlude in office during the next fourteen years.

He knew very well, in 1852, that a coalition had a better chance of survival than the Tories on their own. He would have liked to enter into coalition with Palmerston, but Palmerston would not serve with the Tory leader, Derby. In his speech, therefore, he was merely putting a brave face on the situation, and would have been richly amused if he could have guessed that one defiant phrase in his speech would be treated as axiomatic by future generations.

Between 1868 and 1886 there was an alternation of party governments. Liberal and Tory, which England cannot have loved immoderately since none of them lasted more than a single term. From 1886 until the end of 1905 the country was ruled — apart from a three-year Liberal interlude (1892-95) — by a combination, which became a coalition, of Tories and Liberal Unionists.

The 1906 election returned the Liberals with an outright party majority, but this did not survive the first election of 1910, after which the Liberal government became dependent upon the Irish. From 1915 to 1922 there was coalition government, which a much expanded electorate confirmed in office in 1918.

After the return to party govern-

ment there was an alternation during the 1920s, with no government winning a second term. But the National (coalition) government formed in 1931 won two successive elections with large majorities. The second, in 1935, was the last occasion when a British government obtained more than 50 per cent of the popular vote.

There was, of course, coalition from 1940 to 1945, since when the country has had its longest period of party government. But it would be hard to say that these governments have been loved, since every one of them — including even the Labour government of 1945, with its landslide majority in Parliament — has rested upon a minority of votes in the country. The long period of Tory rule in 1951-64, during which the party won three elections in a row, suggests a measure of popular affection. But the magic 50 per cent of the popular vote was never quite passed.

So what can we conclude about Disraeli's saying? There seems no justification for the view that all forms of coalition are specially unloved by the English, or British.

The least loved form appears to be the "grand" or all-party variety, which has the effect of depriving Parliament of any organized opposition. The outstanding case of this was the Churchill government in the Second World War, which — after the time of supreme national danger was past — soon began to lose by-elections to fringe candidates.

More limited forms of coalition have a better chance of being popular, though no government is likely to retain its popularity for very long. The British tend to fall out of love with their governments fairly soon, whether single-party or coalition.

Any government depends for success upon holding together, upon having policies that work, and upon being faced by a divided or incompetent opposition. These advantages are open to a coalition government no less than to one based on a single party. Moreover, a coalition of two elements, in a Parliament that might consist of three main groups, would have the support of a majority of the people, which has eluded all our governments since 1935.

Coalitions are certainly liable to comprise differences of outlook. But so do party governments, which are normally coalitions in all but name, in which the rival factions are often at each other's throats. An overt coalition may, indeed, be relatively more united, as well as fairer to the public, which at least knows what it is getting.

Henry Stanhope Have brain, will drain

I am getting rather worried about the brain drain. It has been gurgling away for so long now that those of us left lying in the sink, are beginning to feel rejected — like a piece of broken eggshell or a discarded cabbage.

It was clear to me at a fairly early age that the ability to recite the whole of Wordsworth's *Westminster Bridge* without stopping and remember the date of Trafalgar was not the kind of aptitude for which the later 20th century had been waiting. When the chips were really down, it was not the likes of me who could save Western civilization from extinction.

I stared wonderingly while in school at those who could make mortice and tenon joints at woodwork — a craft in which an innate inability to sew straight was a handicap I never overcame. Ever since, I have gazed in admiration not only at those who can build suspension bridges, nuclear power plants and dry docks, but at garage hands, electricians, and plumbers' mates.

I peer into holes in the road, knowing full well that I could never dig one without fracturing a water main, cutting off all the telephones in Oxford Street and no doubt discovering the Jubilee Line. How on earth do they know where to start?

Not long ago I watched some young girls making silicon chips at a high technology factory north of London. They were there, chatting to each other about twin-sets, over their microscopes, like their grandmothers knitting cardigans for the troops. Now a caravan of double-humped camels could pass through the eye of a needle more easily than I could ever make a chip out of silicon — or anything less malleable than potato.

There are said to be people who look down on those who actually do things for a living — like engineers and footballers, car salesmen, jobbing builders and the rest. I certainly don't. I have always felt, beside them, an inferiority which the brain drain has reflected, by and large. They are the masters now.

The point I am trying to make, however, is that as long as the brain drain swallowed only the scientists and the engineers among us, there was a logic which was easily understandable. One could readily understand why the United States sought orthopaedic surgeons or haematologists — as opposed to the students of Catullus, the Tudor historians or the specialists in Shakespearean fish imagery.

It has therefore come as something of a shock to hear that our philosophers are now going too. Is the soul of our nation departing?

What America is going to do with a boatload of philosophers and arts men is a matter for transatlantic speculation. For all I know it will employ them as lieutenants on the beaches of Miami or janitors stoking the boilers in Harvard Yard. Their calling is quite admirable and, with British universities shedding their philosophy departments faster than chestnut trees dropping cones in autumn, I do not begrudge them their land of opportunity. But I would never have thought philosophers a first priority while planning a revolution in high technology.

Their departure, though, puts more pressure on us all to follow it. I am told that 18th century literature dogs are already being snapped up like cabbage patch dolls and historians have become collectors' items.

There are some aspects of the brain drain which need watching. To take one example of what I mean, the newspapers are mysteriously inundated with reports every spring about a sudden recruiting crisis in the Armed Forces. Admirals sport reporters in the street, air vice marshals stand on the telephone to one's editor to recount how our best young pilots are ejecting themselves from the cockpits of our fighters and our soldiers are fast clambering from their tanks, all to seek better paid jobs elsewhere, amid the honey-pots of industry and the City.

A national scandal, you might think; another symptom of our uncaring society, which so recklessly neglects the defence of our realm and the young men and women who maintain it, once peace has been won? Not at all. What it really means is that the annual report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body is moving into sight on the horizon.

One might therefore view the figures with some scepticism — and certainly the motives of those going. I remain unconvinced that the brilliant young men who are flocking from our northern university towns to join the rush to sand-drenched California are inspired entirely by their devotion to the sex life of the fruit fly — or the influence of Chaucer on the poetry of contemporary Puerto Rico.

Still, I might have gone too if only someone had asked.



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A HUMANE JUDGMENT

The unanimous verdict by the Law Lords that the sterilization of a mentally handicapped 17-year old should be allowed to proceed "without further delay" will confound those who campaigned so passionately against the appeal court decision six weeks ago. The forthright wording of yesterday's judgment, arguing as it does that no other verdict was possible, will confound many more.

One group of dissenters will argue that, whatever the caveats expressed by the Lords, the verdict provides, in effect, a charter for the sterilization of mentally handicapped girls. Another will ask why, if the case was as straightforward as the Law Lords say it was, so much time and public money was spent in contesting it through the courts. The answer is implicit in this conflict.

The case had aroused uncommon public interest and an exceptional quality of debate. Doctors, lawyers, parents of handicapped children and their educators all had views. Legal and ethical principles needed to be disentangled from conflicting emotions, but without departing from the realities of caring for the mentally handicapped. It was wholly appropriate that the decision about 17-year old Jeanette's future should be referred to the highest court in the land.

The virtue of the appeal was to allow the wider issues to be broached which had obtruded after the appeal court had pronounced in favour of

sterilization. Chief among these was the fear that if sterilization were permitted in this one case, the way could be eased for its use for eugenic purposes in future. The spectre of the eugenic experiments conducted in the Third Reich hovered in the background. The Law Lords insisted, however, that the case of Jeanette had nothing to do with eugenics. The girl's interests were paramount.

The other objection raised was that the underlying intention of sterilization was not the welfare of the girl, but ease of care. In other words, that the interests of her mother and her guardians, present and future, were being placed before those of the girl. Her presumed right to reproduce, it was said, was being subordinated to the convenience of those around her.

The Law Lords dismissed this argument, too. If sterilization had the effect of easing care, they said, this was an incidental consequence. It did not — and should not — contribute to the decision. That was based exclusively on what was judged to be in Jeanette's interests.

By distinguishing these issues from the individual case before them, the Law Lords ensured that Jeanette's welfare was not sacrificed to some higher legal or ethical principle that might look impeccable on paper but could prove a source of great human misery. They also set a valuable precedent: that the only criteria for judging such cases

in future should be the medical history of the girl concerned, the prognosis, and her own happiness — as assessed by a court of law on the evidence both of her family and of specialists.

There will still be those who argue that sterilization should be permitted only where the health of the girl (interpreted in a narrow sense) would otherwise be at risk. The Law Lords chose, wisely, to associate health with happiness and dismissed as unrealistic the verdict of a Canadian court in an analogous case, which allowed only "therapeutic" sterilization.

There will still be those, too, who — despite the weight of evidence to the contrary — would prefer to believe that a less final form of contraception could eventually have been found for Jeanette. In these quarters yesterday's judgment will be interpreted as limiting the rights of mentally handicapped girls to an unacceptable degree. There are already plans to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

For many, however, the precedent set by this case will provide two welcome assurances. First, it will now be legally possible for parents and doctors to countenance the possibility of sterilization for a mentally handicapped girl as a last resort. The second is that there will be an established legal safeguard for the girl: permission can only be granted by a court of law. It was a humane decision.

MILITANTS AGAIN FOR MR KINNOCK

Mr Kinnock's problem with black left-wing militants is no different from his problem with white left-wing militants. His problem is that they are militants, not that they are black. The black militants display the age-old characteristics of militants of any kind: intolerance, self-righteousness, impracticality, and worse.

Mr Kinnock is familiar of old with Labour activists who have those characteristics. He once used them to his advantage. On his way to becoming leader of the Labour Party, he was prepared to be associated with the white version of the type. He actively sought their support. Their votes helped elect him to the Labour national executive in the late 1970s. He could probably not have become leader had not the electoral college ceased to be just the Parliamentary Labour Party. By the time he won it, the office of leader had passed into the gift of an electoral college which included the constituency parties, where Sharon Atkins abounded. That gave Mr Kinnock his chance. The parliamentarians alone would not have been enough to elect him.

Mr Kinnock will not be the first, nor the last, politician to be devoured by those on whose support he relied in order to rise in the world. It is a

recurring theme of politics. Either they devour him or he devours them. In Mr Kinnock's case, which is it to be?

They alone do not have the direct power to devour him. But they do have the power to make his party — and therefore him — unpopular, or even hated, by vast numbers of voters. That would make it impossible for Mr Kinnock to become Prime Minister. When he expelled the Militant tendency in Liverpool, it might have looked as if it was Mr Kinnock who was doing the devouring. But his popularity, and that of his party, is still as low as ever.

There is no reason to suppose that the disbarment of Sharon Atkins, as prospective parliamentary candidate for Nottingham East, will contribute much to the turning of the tide. Probably the black militants — and the white ones — long ago did their damage. For the party and leader who indulged them for years, it is too late to escape from them now. Coming so soon before a general election in which Labour's position appears to be desperate, the punishing of Miss Atkins will probably not impress many voters. How did she become a parliamentary prospective candidate in the first, they may well ask?

Miss Atkins was disbarred from her candidacy for calling the Labour Party "racist". But behind it all lies the problem of black sections.

The party leaders fear that, in the minds of the voters, black political activism is associated with more immigration — something which is regarded as electorally ruinous, despite the usefulness of the black and Asian vote. Their official excuse for opposing black sections is that they would make up a "ghetto". Yet, many years ago, the party created a women's section. That sounds no less patronizing than a black section. The party leaders knew that it did not offend the voters. So the party is prepared to pander to all manner of interests provided they do not outrage too much the biggest interest of all — the electorate. It is an ignoble posture for a radical party.

Yes, I did say 20.8 per cent. It is not a typing error. Yours, near the official poverty line, no doubt soon to be below it, J. M. SEED, 41 Cloth Road, Didsbury, Manchester, April 24.

From Mr Michael Williams
Sir, It is to be hoped that Mr Dennison did not spend 40 years teaching mathematics. Of course 34p does not represent a 2.1 per cent increase in his monthly pension. What has happened is that his pension payment date is shortly after April 6, when the rise occurred, and he had only earned a day or two of the increase. In a month's time he will have an agreeable surprise. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, 29 South Canterbury Road, Canterbury, Kent.

OFF-SHORE DETENTION

It is unfortunate, for all involved, that the Home Office plan to lease (or, as Sealink prefers to say, charter) a ferry to house asylum-seekers should become public just as the inquiry into the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise starts its proceedings. The coincidence means that any merits the Home Office plan may have are less likely to be recognized.

The idea of using a ship — in this case the Earl William which was taken out of service last year — to accommodate refugees does have merits. At present, people who come to Britain in quest of asylum and without valid papers, face often hurried questioning, followed — unless they are summarily sent back to their port of embarkation — by weeks or even months in a detention centre.

These centres are usually overcrowded and recreation facilities are limited. Where prison accommodation is used, as it has been recently at Foston Hall in Derbyshire, the very appearance of the centre is forbidding. The alternative, however, is expensive hotel accommodation or the temporary admission of the applicants into Britain (where they may disappear).

The Earl William, which is described by both the Home Office and Sealink as providing luxury accommodation,

could be an imaginative solution. It offers the possibility of decent living conditions combined with security that is less obtrusive than it would be on land where high fences and locked doors are the rule.

Psychologically, too, a ship at anchor in a British port, as this is planned to be, could be thought to foster an appropriate sense of being almost in Britain, but not quite. Thus it would serve neither to raise unjustifiably the hopes of those seeking asylum (as temporary admission to Britain might do), nor to dash their hopes so thoroughly that they resort to desperate action.

Even without the Townsend Thoresen disaster, however, the idea of using a ship to give temporary refuge to people seeking asylum in Britain has one insurmountable flaw. What might appear a perfectly reasonable idea to Britons living in the security of their own homes, with their passports in order and their right to leave and re-enter this country unchallenged, will appear to in a quite different light to those who have no home, no recognized papers and no right of abode elsewhere.

Images of convict ships, prison islands and boat people have already been raised by organizations concerned with the welfare of refugees. Many of those seeking admission to Britain left their own countries

in dangerous circumstances, some by sea. The symbolism of the ship will not escape any of them. It will inspire the fear that at dead of night it will weigh anchor and set sail for Saigon, Colombo, Gdansk or wherever they most fear to return.

At best, the Home Office plan should be regarded as a temporary solution to a temporary problem — the greater number of would-be refugees arriving in Britain. The provision of more accommodation should not, however, be seen as an alternative to the much-needed refinement of procedures for the reception of refugees. It is vital to ensure that the welfare of genuine refugees is not compromised by others whose need of refuge is rooted only in a desire for a better standard of living.

A start was made with the measures announced by the Government recently to fine airlines for carrying people whose claim to refuge is judged unfounded. Also welcome are proposals drafted by EEC interior ministers earlier this week to standardize Community immigration procedures and ensure that criteria for refugee status are applied consistently across the Community. A local dispute about a refugee ship should not be allowed to hinder this progress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use of dual-capable weapon systems

From Field Marshal Lord Carver
Sir, In your issue of April 29, Professor Sir Michael Howard makes use of his unrivalled expertise in military history and of his natural wisdom to cast a bright light of common sense on the current concern over Soviet proposals in nuclear arms control. One must hope that this Government will pay more attention to his views than they have in the past.

An issue which complicates a solution to the control of medium and shorter-range nuclear delivery systems in Europe is that of dual-capable systems: that is those which, in theory, could be used to deliver either nuclear or non-nuclear warheads, of which the Pershing 1a is one.

With the development of greater accuracy in delivery and of non-nuclear warheads which can effect destruction on targets, for which in the past it was thought necessary either to use nuclear warheads or a very large number

of conventional bombs, it is becoming clear that there are many tasks in support of land forces which would be better performed by land-based missiles than by vulnerable and expensive piloted aircraft.

As long as such systems are classified as dual-capable, they are inevitably drawn into the nuclear arms control argument. It would also be of vital importance, if hostilities were to break out, not to provoke the enemy to assume that they were about to launch nuclear warheads, when they were not.

In addition, therefore, to acting on Sir Michael Howard's advice, the Government should address itself, and persuade its allies to do so, to the problem caused both by having dual-capable delivery systems and the need to support Nato's land forces in future with land-based missile systems delivering non-nuclear warheads. Yours truly, CARVER, House of Lords.

Friends of CND

From Mrs J. M. Leaton Webb
Sir, In your leader (April 27), "A silenced voice", you state that "only during the last 18 months of its existence has CND paid any attention at all to the arguments against nuclear power stations" (my emphasis) and imply that CND's joint mass demonstration with Friends of the Earth (FOE) to commemorate the anniversary of the disaster at Chernobyl was in some way opportunistic.

Both the statement and the implication are wholly false.

As a director of FOE until December, 1986, I witnessed CND submitting evidence to the Sizewell public inquiry into the building of the first pressurised water nuclear reactor in the UK. The inquiry ran from January 11, 1983, until March 7, 1983, and consequently it was during this period that CND submitted evidence. Thus CND's interest in nuclear power has been evident

for a period greater than 18 months and has been the highest order; no organisation in the voluntary sector undertakes the time-consuming and expensive process of a public inquiry unless the matter is of profound concern.

This concern with nuclear power took place at precisely the time that your leader denotes as "a high point [of membership] of 110,000 in 1984/5" for CND. Additionally, since 1980 CND groups have worked with Friends of the Earth, Green Party and local interest groups in the East Anglian Alliance Against Nuclear Power (EAAANP). Their affiliation is a matter of record.

A leader is by custom a place of opinion; it should not masquerade as fact.

Yours faithfully, IRIS WEBB, 12 Ruskin Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, April 27.

Teachers' duties

From Mrs Joan Seed
Sir, Mr V. Dennison (April 24) should consider himself lucky with a rate rise of under 2 per cent. Here in Manchester rates have been increased by 20.8 per cent, despite the fact that — apart from high court judges and such like — nobody's income increases by this amount, and those of us (widows *et al.*) on fixed incomes with families to support, as always, bear the brunt as our standard of living goes down and down.

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Sir, It is to be hoped that Mr Dennison did not spend 40 years teaching mathematics. Of course 34p does not represent a 2.1 per cent increase in his monthly pension. What has happened is that his pension payment date is shortly after April 6, when the rise occurred, and he had only earned a day or two of the increase. In a month's time he will have an agreeable surprise. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, 29 South Canterbury Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Ethiopian prisoners

From Mr David Harris, MP for St Ives (Conservative)
Sir, Your editorial (April 22), "The Minister and the Colonel", focused attention on Mrs Chalker's visit to Ethiopia and Britain's proper concern for basic human rights in that country.

Without wishing to interfere in the domestic politics of Ethiopia, I would like to give a reminder that there are quite a number of us in Britain who remain deeply concerned about the continuing imprisonment of the 10 members of the former Imperial family.

For years, we have had hints that these unfortunate people — mainly middle-aged ladies — will soon be released. Because of this, we have not campaigned publicly for their release for some time.

But if mercy is not shown by then, they will have spent 13 years in prison without trial, come September.

Surely, in all humanity, they could be allowed to leave Ethiopia quietly and without fuss. Could I, through your columns, make a fresh appeal to the Government there to allow this to happen without further delay?

Yours faithfully, DAVID HARRIS, House of Commons.

Status of bishops

From Sir John Barnes

Sir, My fingers have been itching to pick up a pen and write to you about bishops. A controversial appointment to Birmingham is where I came in, with my father's nomination there in 1924. *Plus ça change*... But I resisted temptation until the Bishop of Rochester's letter today (April 22), of which I think I disagree with almost every word.

Disestablishment would be the kiss of death for the Church of England. Whatever Professor Douglas Jones may say (April 14), the Church is certainly not now the Tory Party at prayer. I have seen the Archbishop of York described as the SDF at prayer. Presumably the Bishop of Salis-

bury is the CND at prayer, Mr Kent having contracted out.

No, Sir, the Church is and should be the nation at prayer. The Bishop of Chichester (April 14) had it right. The Crown and its advisers should hold the ring. Church appointments are too dangerous to be left to the Church alone, still less to one faction within the Church.

A bishop of Birmingham is not appointed to minister to the faithful converted alone. He must hold his own with civic leaders, many of whom are traditionally non-conformist, with industrialists who may not even be believers, with the intellectuals of a great university, with his Roman Catholic brethren and with all the alienated young people and unemployed of the Midlands. It

Obstacles in path of schools reform

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde

Sir, The correspondence initiated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of York (feature, April 15) is of great importance to the future of education in this country and to the well-being of the country itself. Several other vice-chancellors (and their universities) strongly support his views.

For those of us in Scotland that is rather easy, since traditions north of the border have persistently supported general education at school and at university. The success of Scottish education is the plainest evidence that Professor Saul's proposals would work.

Those familiar with English education will realise that his common-sense views have many enemies. As one who took part in three previous attempts (by the Schools Council) to broaden A-level curricula, I wish to remind present-day enthusiasts of the powerful vested interests standing in their way.

These include universities which advocate and support highly selective entrance requirements; a wide range of schools, many of them fee-paying, and those professors and others whose loyalty to their subjects is such that they cannot see beyond their boundaries.

The peculiarly English devotion to narrow specialisation and therefore of early specialisation in schools and universities is of long standing. It will not easily give way to this latest attempt to bring us into line with the rest of the world.

The way forward then is to decouple the curricula of schools from those of the universities and to let both serve their own purpose in their own time. The crucial step is to base entry into higher education on agreed minimal performance at the International Baccalaureate or its equivalent and so to widen the range of entry as positively to discourage early specialisation and the A-level examinations which demand it.

Early specialisation, excessive devotion to the single honours degree, to over-academic studies, researches and the cultural attitudes which flow from them have all contributed to this country's industrial decline. Clever we may be, competent we are not. Life-long learning, constant retraining and intellectual mobility are the means whereby we shall regain and retain skills on which a new prosperity can be soundly based.

Yours sincerely, GRAHAM HILLS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow, April 28.

Jury challenge

From Mrs A. L. Gordon
Sir, There is one cogent argument against abolishing the right of peremptory challenge to jurors to which Bernard Levin has not referred (April 27).

Defence counsel frequently attempt to pick jurors apparently "suitable" for their defendants. In particular, they almost always try to exclude anyone who might remotely — from their appearance and age group — be likely to possess hard-line views on law and order.

Presumably those in the know now dress accordingly. Must juries consist of clones of the accused? It seems a strange form of justice.

Yours, HILARY B. GORDON, G3 Marine Gate, Marine Drive, Brighton, East Sussex.

Des. res. in China

From Mr Michael de Havilland
Sir, Your Diary story, "Peking play" (April 23) gives the impression that the Chinese are now at long last being encouraged to buy their own houses. This is correct up to a point but house deals in China are a far cry from the Western system of ownership. Under ancient Chinese law, strictly observed for over 40 centuries, the freehold of land was always invested in the Government which held it in trusteeship for the people.

Nothing has changed. New house "owners" will not own their freehold. Such a thing could only be made possible by drastic changes in the law, which is hardly likely.

Cordially, MICHAEL de HAVILLAND, China House, St Mary's Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, April 24.

looks as if a good choice has been made. It might not have been, had it been left to churchmen alone.

As for the House of Lords, surely it should be the sounding board for people actively engaged in different aspects of the national life, of which the Church is one. To confine the spiritual representation to retired bishops no longer running dioceses would be a negation of the Church's proper function. Equally, to give the Church an exclusive right to make its own appointments would risk reducing it to an unrepresentative sect.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BARNES, Hampton Lodge, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, April 22.



ON THIS DAY

MAY 1 1786

This extract is taken from a treatise on the administration of French finances written by Jacques Necker (1732-1804) after he had resigned as Director-General of Finance in 1781. The placing of the general's report to the French king Louis XVI just below this extract makes a revealing comment on conditions before the French Revolution.

EXTRACTS from Mons. NECKER, on the Civil List Establishments. (Continued.)

XI. Total expense of the Queen's household about 4,000,000.

XII. General expenses relative to the Dauphin, Madame, the King's daughter, Madame Elizabeth, sister to the King, and Madames, aunts to the King, about 3,500,000 livres...

I shall add, that my motive, in the above statement of the expenses commonly known, under the name of the expenses of the King's Household, was to shew, that only part of them concerns his Majesty's person. Exaggerated ideas are always formed on what is not clearly ascertained, and imagination always goes greater lengths than truth. The nation ought certainly to wish, and to see its Sovereign surrounded by the splendour that belongs to his dignity; the reigning monarch is moderate in his inclinations, simple in his manners, and loves his people; supported by these sentiments, a Minister who should fix his attention on the reform of the expenses of the Court, would find it so much the easier to approach rational perfection.

XIII. The funds yearly paid on account of the Royal Prince, brothers to the King, for the maintenance of their household, amount to about 8,300,000 livres...

These Princes enjoy, besides the revenue proceeding from the Royal demesnes that were granted them: each of these grants was fixed at an yearly landed income of 300,000 livres... but the formalities observed in the estimation are such, that even from the beginning of the real income amounted much higher: and I do not think it an exaggeration to estimate the actual produce of these two grants at nearly two millions...

The Princes of the Royal blood enjoy, under the Sovereign's sanction, the right of nomination to all casual offices throughout the extent of those grants, which comprises one-seventh part of the Kingdom: the King's brothers have obtained the same privilege with respect to all consistorial livings...

Extract of a letter from Paris, April 30.

"Lewis XVI. who is desirous of knowing everything that takes place in his dominions, is particularly curious to be informed of the situation of the poor in his Kingdom. Some weeks back he commissioned a Lieutenant General to whom he is much attached, and in whom he places the greatest confidence, to make a tour of France, and scrupulously to inspect every particular that regarded the poor. On his return on the 18th the officer made the following report to his royal master:—"Sire! I have endeavoured to acquit myself of your Majesty's command: I have travelled amongst the poor, and am glad that I found so much misery in their habitations, that I know when your Majesty is made acquainted with the extent of it, your royal goodness will find out some method to alleviate the distress of such a multitude of your Majesty's subjects as are continually perishing for want throughout the realm of France. The poverty that I have witnessed in your Majesty's dominions harrowed up my very soul. In many villages which I passed through, I was sensibly affected to see some houses not to find a bed, in others I could not see a pot or kettle: here there was no blanket; there the parents and children were nearly naked — They had been forced to part with the most necessary articles in house-keeping to pay the imposts to their Sovereign. The King was so affected at the recital, that he assured his informant, that before a considerable period should elapse he would take such measures as would enable the poorest subject in France to have a piece of good meat for his family at least three times in the week..."

In praise of aunts

From the Rector of Kedington
Sir, As your esteemed newspaper has still, for many of us, an aunt-like status, it is appropriate that you should allow your correspondent, Mr David Conway (April 24), to encourage us to devise an equivalent for the benign "avuncular".

"Parensortorial" is my suggestion — majestic, if a shade weighty. Yours truly, WILLIAM MASON, The Rectory, Kedington, Haverhill, Suffolk.

From Mr N. D. W. Thomas
Sir, May I suggest "auntique"; it does, I think, convey the old world charm of the species.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS D. W. THOMAS, 8 Wellington Road, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside.

From Mrs Michael Gemmell
Sir, It has long been the custom in our family to use "tarantular".

Yours faithfully, SUSAN GEMMELL, Holtye House, Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent.

ADMINISTRATIVE
ENQUIRIES

THE ARTS

A bit less sympathy required

Film of the Aberfan disaster opened Thames TV's new six-part series *Brief Lives*. Tackling one of the most awkward of all subjects, the death of children, it opted for a restrained, unsensational look at the problem from a group of parents who were able to survey the catastrophe of accidental death over the perspective of years. There was no dwelling on grief here, but an exploration of anger, fear, and the overblown which such loss creates.

All the children whose parents were interviewed had died in some sort of road accident, and it was made exceptionally

TELEVISION

direct by being presented by a reporter, Julian Astin, who had himself lost a child in an accident. Yet that perhaps led everyone to be too mutually sympathetic about a problem which most fear people apart emotionally. The nearest we came to the believably irrational was one parent's admitting resentment and anger that other people's children were still alive. A less understanding approach might have revealed more.

40 Minutes (BBC 2) ended its current run with a typically whimsical, well-observed look at a weekend in the life of a great hotel: the Taj Mahal, Bombay. Here was the new India, where money has replaced caste as the divisive factor, where society hostesses gather and every lavish taste is catered for.

From an unpromising start to an interview with a director making a film outside the hotel, we eventually got his opinion that "it's a miracle people in the street don't blow this whole thing up". As so often with *40 Minutes*, a vague aura of patronizing condescension overlay the whole skillfully constructed exercise.

William Holmes

Caroline Moorehead meets Wilfred Thesiger, legendary traveller of the world's wilderness

When the going was good

Everything you hear about Wilfred Thesiger, legendary traveller through some of the most inaccessible of the world's wildernesses, author of *Arabian Sands* and *The Marsh Arabs*, leads you to expect austerity, aloofness, even a certain chilliness. It is an impression readily confirmed by occasional passages in his autobiography, *The Life of my Choice*, which has just been published. "Looking back on the commonly accepted pleasures of life," he writes sternly on page 295, "I can say that I have never set much store by them."

The surprise then, when you ring the bell in a sedate block of flats overlooking the Thames and the Chelsea Physic Garden, is to find a tall, very affable figure, in a three-piece dark suit, who leads you down the hall with a strange flapping gait like some great wading bird. Thesiger laughed at the suggestion of solitariness. "On the contrary, I hate being on my own."

To be with people that's what matters to me, whether in the Sudan, Arabia or the marshes."

Wilfred Thesiger is 77. He spends nine months each year in northern Kenya, where he shares a house with Lawi, a young Samburu he thinks of as his son, and three months in his flat in London. The days of exploring are over, he says, not least because he likes to travel on foot or by camel and "I would feel pretty idiotic on a camel with Land-Rovers and buses driving past me". In any case, the kind of travelling he did, the "lure of the unknown... the constant test of resolution and endurance" is gone.

"I'm fortunate to have got to the places I went to just in time. Look at the Tibesti. When I went there, no car had ever been there. Two years later, there was the army, patrolling about all over the place in their bloody cars."

Son of the British minister in

charge of the legation in Addis Ababa, the first European baby born in Abyssinia, Thesiger carried a love of the country of his early childhood through years of British education and returned there, via the Sudan political service, as soon as he could.

In these early years he dreamt not of exploring, but of hunting "big game, in remote and unknown areas". Out of travelling to hunt came a realization that he wanted more and his first journey, at the age of 23, following the Awash river through hostile Danaki country, was made "because I saw the river flowing to the unknown and thought: 'My God, I must go back and follow it.'"

Later came the Iraqi marshes by canoe, two crossings of Saudi Arabia's waterless Empty Quarter, the Tibesti, Nuri, and the Karakoram on foot.

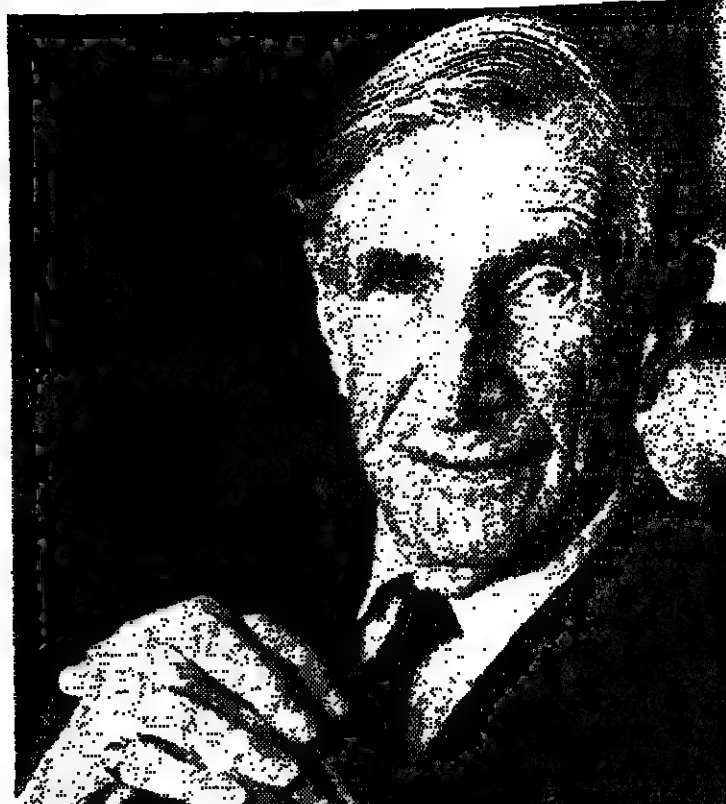
When he did first think of writing? "I never intended to write at all. I have never done a journey

with a view to writing about it. I brought some photographs back from the Empty Quarter and Graham Watson at Curtis Brown said: 'You must write something to go with them.' I said I couldn't. Next day he came back. The result was I went to a bedstater in Denmark and worked 16 hours a day."

Has he found the transition from months of remote existence to city life hard? "No. I've got the ability to switch."

Leading the way back down the hall, pointing out the gold box given to him by Haile Selassie, the dagger he wore in the desert and the faded leather bag in which he protected his camera from the sand, Thesiger laughed again at the picture of him as a misanthropic recluse. "You won't also make me out as having my breakfast on the floor, will you?"

The Life of My Choice by Wilfred Thesiger, published by Collins, £15



Wilfred Thesiger in London: "I would feel pretty idiotic on a camel"

The Jew's revenge

THEATRE

The Merchant of Venice

Stratford

I doubt whether any production of this play could satisfy the post-Holocaust public, but Bill Alexander and Antony Sher (renewing the spectacular partnership of *Taruffe* and *Richard III*) go further in that direction than any other director or leading actor I have seen.

Shakespeare makes much reference to Venetian Jew-baiting, but it is customary in performance to leave this as a war of words. Not so on Mr Alexander's stage, where the Christians would have won the beery applause of Julius Streicher.

To begin with, it seems that the show is handing over the dirty work to Salerio and Solanio. But, with the trial scene, all the Christians are drawn into the ugly game: hissing choruses of "Jew, Jew" as Bassanio and Gratiano force the victim to his knees and make him cross himself.

Shylock's unmistakable key line is: "The villainies you teach me I will execute." His

actions arise from a history of ill-usage; and in one memorable image, he seizes a negro slave to prove his point by reference to a separate racial parallel. Also, the viciousness of the trial spectators makes it impossible for him to back down. This scene grows to a gigantic collision as he breaks into the Christian devotions with a Hebrew prayer that reaches an ecstatic climax as he raises the knife. The message is implicit in the action: hate begets hate, and the Christians had it coming to them.

The penalty is that the romance perishes altogether. If there is an interesting love relationship, it is between

Nicholas Farrell's glibly wheeling Bassanio and John Carlisle's immovably melancholy Antonio, who is totally besotted with the younger man while also seeing through him.

Nothing in Belmont remotely approaches this emotional level, and not since Joan Plowright's governessy clatchaine have I seen so unappealing a Fortia as Deborah Findlay, a stately heiress in ringlets and copious silks, discussing her queues of suitors with bored distaste which she does little to conceal when they arrive to inspect the caskets on a down stage sea-saw.

Looked at from another angle, the performance does have its points, as a study of a woman who has suffered for years from terrible men (including her father) and now sees a chance to get her own back. Hence the ring episode; and a sub-plot complementing racial reprisal with feminist revenge.

Sher's performance remains the overwhelming reason for seeing this production. It starts at the utmost remove from violence—as an amiable Levantine, full of flirtatious smiles, and moves by implacably articulated stages towards wrath and destruction. Its turning point is the elopement of Jessica: at which point, for the first time, Sher does not know what to do with his hands until he starts beating himself in place of the enemy who has escaped. Even here, when he gets to "Hath not a Jew eyes?", he is still pleading with his tormentors and asking real questions. For a performance on this scale, the romance is well lost.

Irving Wardle

Stephen Pettitt

Bouncing the Barretts

Robert and Elizabeth Chichester

This musicalized tale of the young lovers of Wimpole Street ran for a mighty 900 performances in the mid-Sixties and I dare say tickets have been selling briskly enough for this revival opening the 1987 Chichester Festival.

The story has a sensitive young Victorian heroine, seemingly a poetess, who was once as happy as you or I but has lost the use of her unmentionables through guilt over a brother's death. Now she is helped by being the object of her monstrous father's incestuous passion.

The show also gives us dashing young Robert Browning, writing dreadful plays but famous poems, who brings love and assurance into her life. As though about to recommend the virtues of Horlicks he says: "Elizabeth, there's nothing physically wrong", and sure enough she ventures on the first tentative steps to Florence, fame and a musical by Ronald Millar and Row Grainer.

And much against expectation I enjoyed a great part of it—which was certainly not the case on its first showing in the Sixties. To emerge from a musical humming its songs is at least evidence that the orchestra is not being paid in vain.

My memories of the first production are unclear, save for the captivating number sung in the second half by the supposedly crushed younger

brothers and sisters of Miss Elizabeth.

One of the several inconsistencies of the book is that the Barretts' offspring complain that Papa (snarling John Savident) never allows them any fun, yet they go through the evening with perky faces and perky songs like "Pass the Eau de Cologne".

But in their closing number they do remain absolutely motionless, seated on their going-away trunks, and stare out at the audience recalling, in slow waltz time, that "The Girls that Boys Dream About Dream About Boys". It brushes the heartstrings.

This scene has been opened out by the director, Stewart Trotter, who also brings on 20 children to swell a chorus-line or two, and frames the story in fairly token suggestions that it is being presented by a Victorian theatre company.

Nonsensical though it is to see such bouncing Barretts, Trotter bounces them with a nice eye for changing patterns. Mark Wynter's Browning is likeable, honest, firm, knees adroitly, sings in good voice but, apart from being given a fancy rhyme for "Crosses", hardly suggest the poet.

And now does Gaynor Miles as Elizabeth. What, by the way, is a Victorian Miss doing staging on a "neighbourhood store"? But in this particular number the dull time suddenly vanishes before the show's other humbling song, and as she soars up the scale to the top notes of "I Know Now", story and music and performance for a few moments come powerfully together.

Jeremy Kingston

Stephen Frears's film, *Prick Up Your Ears*, warmly reviewed yesterday by David Robinson, is showing not at the Curzon, Mayfair as stated but at the Curzon, West End.



Eager for his pound of flesh: Antony Sher as Shylock

CONCERTS

Barry Douglas Barbican

Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* has become something of an *idol fixe* in the career of Barry Douglas. It wowed the Russians when he carried away the Tchaikovsky Gold Medal last summer, and it's the work with which he makes his solo recital recording debut this month.

The trouble is that the *idol* is threatening to become just a little too *fixe*. I've watched the work grow under his fingers during the last 10 years: a performance he gave three years ago in Hungary was outstanding in its breadth, controlled resonance and imaginative momentum. Douglas treats the piece very much as a psychological journey, concentrating on the mood of the Promenades to gauge the viewer's shifting responses to the Pictures.

This time, there was something curiously static about it

all: an over-aggressive, percussive setting-out and a consistent emphasis in the tread which reduced the sense of arrival which his massive, fearless octaves are able to create so well in the finale.

But the individual canvases glowed with reassuring richness: a *Duffy-like* activity of light and movement in "Tulleries", a hugely weighted on-cart, and a "Catacombs" in which Douglas's fondness for illuminating the inner marrow of a chord sequence came into its own.

This love of listening and of meditative deliberation did a lot, too, for Shostakovich's *Prelude and Fugue in E minor*. Phrase dissolved into phrase in the *Prelude*, and Douglas enjoyed the gradual, almost imperceptible, tightening of the thread in the *Fugue*. The least said, for the time being, about Douglas's Beethoven, the better. The "Waldstein" Sonata showed that the ingredients have to be left to mature for quite a bit longer yet.

Hilary Finch

Capricorn St John's

This was the third concert in Capricorn's series devoted to Nordic music, and it presented an array of new works in each of which the composer seemed eager to explore. One would hardly have expected everything to succeed unequivocally, and Erik Hojgaard's *Fantasy Piece* for clarinet trio did not.

Its very instrumentation suggested that Brahms was very much in the composer's mind when he wrote it. And there he is, in the impassioned, headstrong intensity of the first movement, the darkness of the Scherzo, the

thorough-going final variations all, however, handled a little heavily.

The *Prelude* of Per Norgard's *Prelude and Fugue* expanded upon the one in C major which begins Book One of Bach's *Forty-eight*, while the *Fugue* was based on an etching by M.C. Escher of ants. Purely as an experience of sound, however, the work was over-busy.

Another Danish composer, Karl Aage Rasmussen, had shown himself equally keen to go to earlier sources in his *Italian Concerto* (1981), for mixed sextet; no, it was not Bach this time, but instead Castiglioni, Pasquini, and Berio, with Stravinsky included for good measure.

Stephen Pettitt

DANCE

Rosemary Butcher Whitechapel Gallery

Rosemary Butcher's new dance collaboration, *Touch the Earth*, is being given this week at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Spectators sit at one end of the upper gallery, the dancers using the rest of the space, so you watch them down its length, and the eye at times has the interesting task of taking in near and distant movement simultaneously.

Butcher herself starts the action in silence, staking out the land, establishing some of the movement motifs, including the action of touching the ground, with hands or the whole reclining body, which gives the work its title.

Their movements, both in taking up postures and in covering the area, are mainly slow, although occasionally they get from one point to another very quickly without seeming to hurry. Sue MacLennan, Jonathan Burrows and Dennis Greenwood are the most compelling performers among a dedicated cast.

Dieter Pietsch's visual setting for the action includes two screens in the distance and many thin metal poles ranged along the walls. Those might be spears or farm implements and the dancers use them ambiguously.

Michael Nyman's music begins only after the dance has started, with voices and stringed instruments calling to each other in plaintive notes from loudspeakers on either side. From quiet beginnings it swells gradually, like a tide coming in.

Statements by the creators mention Venetian shipping channels, the decline of American Indians and Chernobyl amongst their inspirations. None of this is visible in the result, except for a sense of primitive people marking out their soil. But the meticulous detail builds a definite and compelling atmosphere, a feeling of patience in the face of inevitability.

John Percival

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Waite at centre of rumours on swap

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

The Beirut magazine which broke the story of the American arms shipments to Iran claims in its latest issue that the Iranian Embassy in Beirut have kidnapped an Iranian Embassy employee to exchange for Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy who disappeared here on January 20 while seeking the release of two US hostages.

It was the first report — or even rumour — about any of the 24 missing foreigners in Lebanon for the past three weeks, although its veracity was thrown into doubt when the Iranian Embassy in Beirut said yesterday that the Iranian named in *Ash Shiraz* — who was identified as "Mohamed Khatami" — was unknown to them. Last week's edition of the same magazine said that an Iranian in charge of catering at the Embassy had disappeared but at that time it made no connection between the man and Mr Waite.

Ash Shiraz, which President Reagan described as "that rag in Beirut" when it disclosed his arms-for-hostages deal with Iran, has built its credibility on its world scoop, although its news item on Mr Waite was only three paragraphs in length and appeared at the foot of its seventh page.

It said that "Khatami" was now being held "at an apartment run by a political party outside Beirut", a clear reference to the Druze militia which is based in the Chouf Mountains, south-east of the Lebanese capital.

It was the Druze leader, Mr Walid Jumblatt, who originally offered protection to Mr Waite, and in the first days of his visit to Beirut in January the church envoy was invariably accompanied by gunmen from Mr Jumblatt's "Progressive Socialist Party". It was when he set off alone for a meeting with the kidnappers of the two Americans that he disappeared, much to the subsequent embarrassment of Mr Jumblatt.

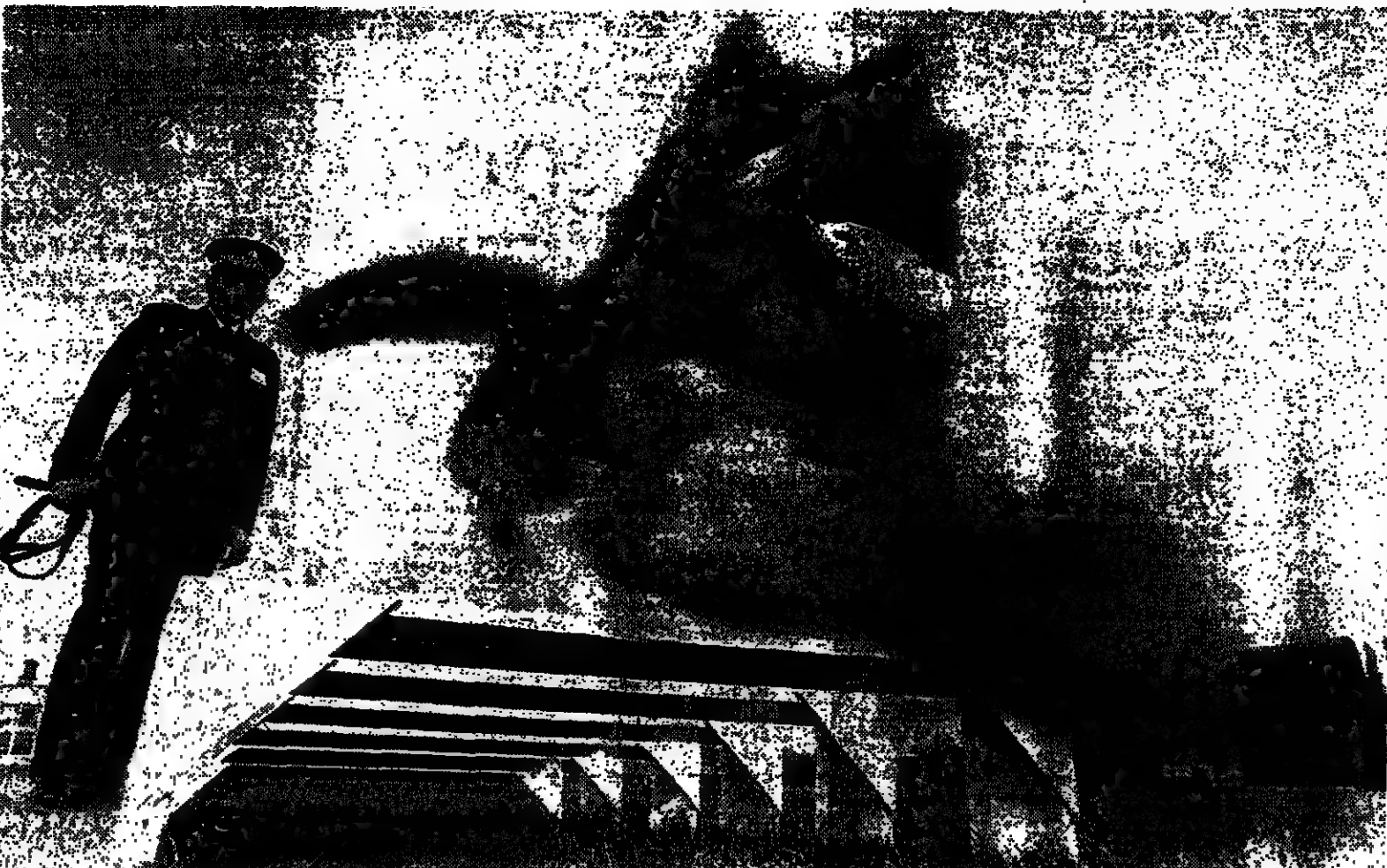
The magazine's assertion that an Iranian had been kidnapped was challenged by a spokesman at the Iranian Embassy. "I know of no Mohamed Khatami working at the Embassy," he said. "I also know of no Iranian national by the name of Mohamed Khatami living in Lebanon."

Hitherto, Mr Jumblatt has implied that the "Hezbollah" (Party of God) movement in west Beirut, which is allied to Iran, had kidnapped Mr Waite but reports that the Archbishop's envoy was being held in the basement of the Iranian Embassy have not been taken seriously.

● Kidnap unconfirmed: The Foreign Office and Lambeth Palace said they were not able to substantiate the report from Beirut about the kidnapping of the Iranian embassy employee, but added that their contacts in Lebanon were trying to verify it (Nicholas Beeson writes).

Split on conference, page 10

Avalanche hero Auric is the top dog for action



PC Romas Gudeles with police dog Auric, winner of the 1986 Police Dog Action of the Year Award, at Hendon Police College in north London. Gudeles and Auric won the award attempting to save a climber lost in an avalanche on Sron-na-Creise in the western Highlands last New Year's Eve. The pair braved perilous conditions, crossed a river in full spate and located the body of the lost climber buried in eight feet of snow. (Photograph: John Rogers)

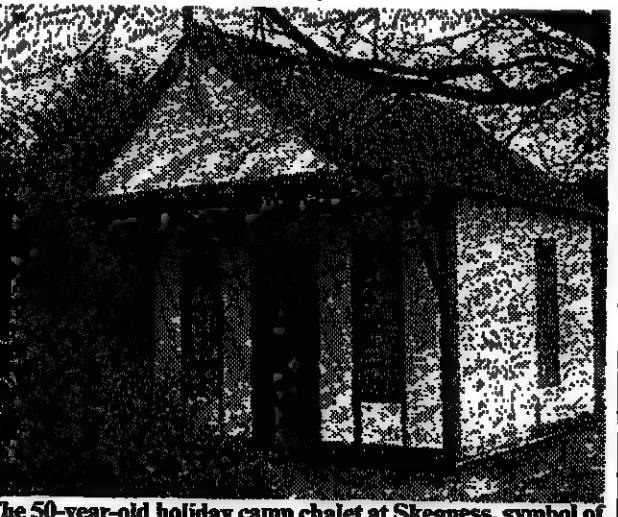
Butlin's chalet is listed for posterity

By Robin Young

The last surviving chalet of Billy Butlin's original holiday camp at Skegness in Lincolnshire has become a listed building. The Department of the Environment announced yesterday that the flimsy mock-Tudor structure, now serving as a gardeners' shed, has been given a Grade II listing, which means it is of such architectural interest that every effort must be made to preserve it.

Butlin's Skegness camp opened in 1936 and the surviving chalet was one of 250 for which holidaymakers paid £2.10s per person a week. Timber-framed, with asbestos panels, a slate roof and overhanging eaves, they were the precursors of chalets which Butlin and his imitators put up at sites around the coast.

The other original chalets



The 50-year-old holiday camp chalet at Skegness, symbol of an age, and now officially of architectural interest.

Surgeons separate twin boys

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Surgeons successfully separated infant Siamese twins in a London hospital yesterday, using new techniques during a 12-hour operation.

The baby boys, aged eight months, were joined from the middle of the breast bone to the pelvis, and shared a common sac around their hearts, which had to be divided.

A medical team of 25, including eight surgeons, performed the operation at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street.

Last night the infants were said to be "doing quite nicely" in the intensive care unit.

The twins, called Hussan and Hussein, also shared the lower small bowel and large intestine, which had to be divided.

The children were flown to Britain last November. Their parents, Sudanese school-teachers, had relatives working in Saudi Arabia who sought sponsorship from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who is paying their costs.

"Over the past two months it has been possible to extend the skin area to permit full closure of the children's abdomens after separation", a hospital spokeswoman said.

"This has been achieved by the use of tissue expanders, a new technique used in plastic surgery to achieve a greater area of skin."

The separation was performed by Professor Lewis Spitz and Mr Edward Kelly,

Lords approve of operation for girl

Continued from page 1

Because of her emotional state and her high pain threshold she would be likely to "pick at the operation wound and tear it open."

Lord Hailsham added that although unable to give informed consent to any act of sexual intercourse, she had "all the physical drive and inclinations of a physically mature young woman of 17, which is what in fact she is."

She had already shown herself vulnerable to sexual approaches and already once been found "in a compromising situation in a bedroom."

Oral contraception only had a 40 per cent chance of establishing "an acceptable regime" and had serious potential side-effects; and in-continence or reducing sexual liberty as she could enjoy would be "gravely detrimental to the amenity and quality of her life."

Lord Oliver of Aymerston said sterilization had emotive overtones in this century. But the appeal had "nothing whatsoever" to do with eugenics, the production of genetically desirable people: its prime consideration was the welfare and best interest of this young woman.

Last night mental health groups called on the Government to produce statutory guidelines on any cases of sterilization where people are unable to give their own consent, even if they are over 18.

Both associations are calling on Lord Hailsham and Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, to set up an expert committee.

Sterilization should only be undertaken when there were overwhelming medical reasons, when pregnancy was dangerous to the woman's health and when pregnancy is likely to occur, for example because contraception is not possible, it said.

Doctors who perform sterilization operations, even with parents' consent, might be liable in criminal, civil or professional proceedings, Lord Templeman said.

He set out guidelines for the "rare" future applications for girls under 18 to be sterilized: ● Sterilizations must be with the leave of a judge; ● The girl will be represented by the Official Solicitor or other appropriate guardian, parents and the local authority where appropriate, will be made parties; ● Expert evidence will be adduced giving reasons for the application, history and foreseeable future of the girl; the risks and consequences of pregnancy and of sterilization and practicability of alternative precautions.

The judge may also call for additional evidence before deciding if there was a "sufficiently overwhelming case" to sanction sterilization.

Commons sketch

MPs angling to catch the big fish

I sit by day in the Gallery staring down at them as they swim in and out, observing closely their bizarre habits, their attempts at communication.

Microphones dangle from the end of long cables stretching down from the roof. They appear as fishing lines trailing into a large pond of inedible creatures.

Often the creatures bob up and down as if preparing to bite. One of them will be allowed to remain up for long enough to talk of yet more ups and downs: employment, tax, growth rates, pay.

"Surely, surely, surely," their questions begin, closing with either "hope for the future" or "a very different story".

Their vocabulary is limited but bolstered by energetic delivery. Cliches form stepping stones over waves of uncertainty. Successes are notable, sabres all rattled, measures all strong.

Words like "facilitate", "envisage" and "participation" indicate that a speech is pre-written. Pre-written speeches attempt to wriggle out of cliché but the attempt is usually hopeless. "Small isn't just beautiful," said Mr David Alton. "It's often better."

Mr Alton was persuading the 17 or so members who had not bothered to leave to support a motion calling for everyone to be much nicer to everyone else (The Directly Elected Neighbourhood Councils Bill).

Though a disproportionate number of members from both sides of the House bear a strong resemblance to Mr Norman Fowler, it is possible to tell young from old, left from right, senior from junior without turning them upside down.

Colouring gives the first clue. Those to the right favour dark suits supplemented with a triangle of handkerchief popping from the top pocket. Those to the left — particularly the snappers — prefer weird, clashing combinations.

Young members on the right can be identified by a tendency to congratulate their seniors at regular intervals, the ritual commencing with the swift buttoning and unbuttoning of their jackets.

Senior members on the right indicate their superiority by lying supine. When compelled to stand, they

congratulate themselves vociferously, toying with gold pens, indicating the conclusion of their speech with the words "On line for recovery".

Members on the left, senior and junior, demonstrate no sign of any awareness of the coming oblivion — predicted for them by observers.

Instead, they chortle and bubble merrily, signalling the termination of their thoughts with the high-pitched use of the phrase, "And they know it!"

What do they debate? Chiefly whether or not they can debate what they wish to. Topics from the outside world zip to and fro at a remarkable rate.

A member from the left starts his speech with a reference to Dr Waldheim and ends it with a plea for more hospitals in Leicestershire.

Many members surprise the novice observer by their presence: the surmise of death years ago in this way overtures. Others prove their vitality by shouting their speeches. The two parties can be differentiated less by class, weight or colouring than by their inability to share jokes.

What is the difference between an important and a minor issue? A minor issue can be readily spotted by its proposer's retort to scoffs that "This is a very serious issue".

As I write, I recall all sorts of very serious issues: assassination attempts on members, new by-passes, cats let out of bags and so on.

There was only one very serious issue on which the House was in complete accord. When the Prime Minister announced that life expectancy in the country was continuing to rise, even the most radical of radicals could think of no possible reason to condemn the news.

It took a member on the right to blur the rejoicing by asking the Prime Minister whether the House had not now reached the end of its natural life.

Baffled in my observations while the creatures continue to bob, I recall yesterday's phrase from Mr Alton.

"There is no meaningful understanding of its meaning," he said of something or other. It is a phrase that rings with peculiar clarity.

Craig Brown

Ferry's chief officer blamed for open door

Continued from page 1

have waited until the process had been completed.

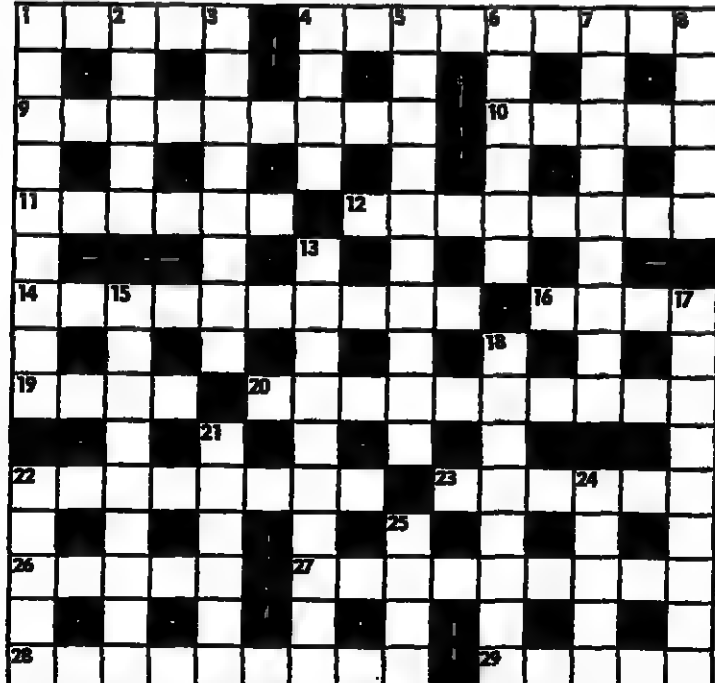
The inquiry heard further evidence that last October Captain Tony de Sainte Croix, master of the *Pride of Free Enterprise*, a sister ship, had had a request turned down that lights should be installed on the bridge to indicate whether the bow doors were closed.

Mr John Alcendor, deputy chief superintendent for

Townsend Thoresen, had written that the project was unnecessary, and not the real answer to the problem.

Mr Edward Potterton, who sometimes acted as assistant bosun, and closed the bow doors, said there had been at least one occasion when the outer doors would not close properly. When that happened he had informed the bridge, and an engineer had attended to the problem.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,345



- ACROSS
- Wraps almost conceal David's work (5).
 - Keeping watch on anybody around the cargo space (9).
 - American sailor's dance (4,5).
 - Try to set a test (5).
 - The river to run unfathomably (6).
 - Back in days of yore, missiles put each side of target (8).
 - Meat pie can get cooked free (10).
 - What beaters do about game (4).
 - Moon, its first quarter poetically exposed to view (4).
 - Unaware of any girl not having been made up (10).
 - Daily one's mother exhibits a divine quality (8).
 - Gently rub one in eight (6).
 - National flower first adopted by Hungary (5).
 - Being dismissive about cleaning method (9).
 - V.I.P. returns rock to Wensleydale, perhaps (3,6).
 - Check road with lights on both sides of it (5).
- DOWN
- The result of 34 trimmed sheets of paper (4-5).
 - Reville Lincoln outside America (5).
 - Bill and I see conserve put up in pots (8).
 - Musicians forbidden to talk (4).
 - He and I in a position to show indecision (10).
 - All the characters in play capable of murder (6).
 - Battling players dismissed for facing the wrong way (6,3).
 - Climbing, for instance, to see unusual birds (5).
 - Where to find a koala in difficulties? (2,1,3,4).
 - A very quiet part of London, but attractive (9).
 - Boxer starts off letting you win easily in bout (9).
 - With 10 flutes at their disposal (8).
 - Henry falls from top to bottom of bluff — how like Henry! (6).
 - Go up country, we hear (5).
 - Drug enshrined in the hearts of 19, 36 and 13 (5).
 - Jack, the foreign expert (4).

Concise crossword, page 12

WEATHER

General situation: A cold front will bring rain followed by much colder showery weather in most areas. In the south east, it will be cloudy with rain later. In central and south western parts, there will be rain at first, clearing slowly from the north west. Western Scotland and the north west will have sunny intervals with heavy showers developing later. North east England and eastern Scotland will also have sunny periods with lighter showers later. In the north of Scotland, there will be prolonged showers later, with snow on high ground. Outlook for the weekend: Cold with sunshine and showers with snow on high ground. Frost at night.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	
Algeria	19	SE	100	

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	
London	15	SE	100	

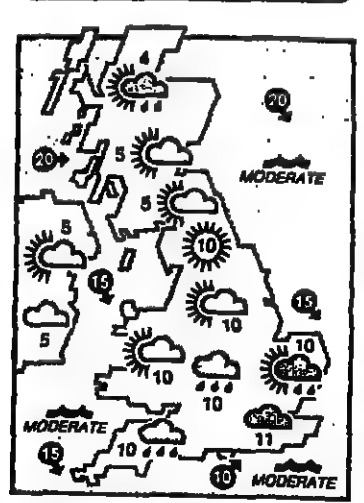
HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7
London Bridge	10:03	12.7

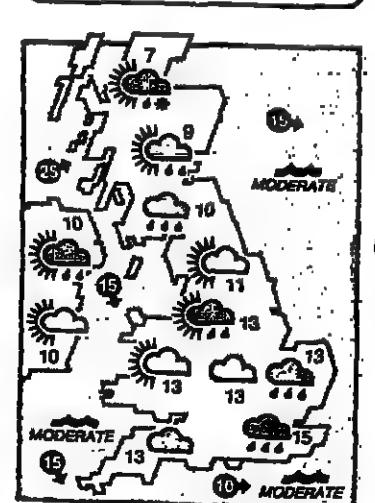
THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48
Australia	2.48

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.53 pm to 5.02 am
Bristol 5.03 pm to 5.12 am
Edinburgh 9.21 pm to 4.58 am
Manchester 9.08 pm to 5.04 am
Preston 9.10 pm to 5.58 am

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15C (59F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 12C (54F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.07 in. 6 pm, 0.14 in. 6 am, 0.6 in. mean sea level, 6 pm, 1014.3 mbars, steady, 1,000 mbars = 29.53 in.

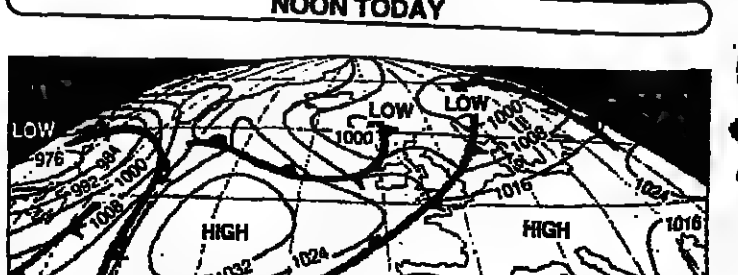
YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	

MANCHESTER

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	
Belfast	16	SE	100	

NOON TODAY



مكتبة الاصل

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Candover plans more links with Europe

Candover Investments, Britain's leading management buyout specialist, is to develop links with similar businesses in Europe. Mr Roger Brooke, chief executive, said yesterday that in addition to a new Frankfurt-based company, LCB Candover, the company was forming links with venture capital investors to operate in the Netherlands. It was also negotiating to set up joint ventures in France, Scandinavia and Italy.

One of the company's investments, made as a result of the partnership with Forstmann Little, was to be listed in the United States giving rise to a 20-fold increase in the value of the investment since 1984. Candover also had a stake in City Merchant Developers, a property company which had announced that it expects to merge with Rivlin.

Mercury to extend calls

Mercury Communications, the only telecommunications carrier licensed to compete with British Telecom, will from today offer local call services for its directly connected customers in the Birmingham and Manchester areas. The extended service, previously only available in London, will be most beneficial to companies with more than 30 exchange lines.

Nissan export drive in Spain

Nissan UK will begin exporting its Bluebird saloon cars to Spain next autumn as part of a realignment of its European operations. While cars will go to Spain, parts, probably including engine blocks, will be shipped to Britain as part of its plan to concentrate European passenger car production in Britain and commercial vehicle manufacture in Spain.

Japan groups in trade pact to boost North

Fuji Bank, a leading Japanese bank, and Marubeni Corporation, a Tokyo trading company, will sign trade and co-operation agreements with Britain's Northern Development Company on Tuesday for the exchange of information to attract more cash to the North. Thirteen Japanese companies, including Nissan and Komatsu, are already there.

Mr Ray Atkinson, chairman of NDC, said: "It is the first time a simultaneous signing of an agreement between a major bank and trading company has taken place with a regional development organization in Britain."

Single merger control urged

The Confederation of British Industry whose president is Mr David Nickson (right), yesterday called on the Government to combine the merger functions of the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It also urged "greater predictability in merger policy to enable companies to frame business strategies with confidence".



Record Plumb profits

Plumb Holdings, the shop-fitting and interior contracting company, almost tripled profits in 1986 to a record £1.45 million, 12 per cent more than forecast at its flotation on the Unlisted Securities Market last November and well above the £520,000 earned the previous year. Turnover rose by 42 per cent to £26.91 million and shareholders will receive a dividend of 1.5p.

STOCK MARKET

Pearson up by 18p on renewed bid talk

By Michael Clark

Bid speculation was rekindled in Pearson, the publishing and merchant banking conglomerate, yesterday after a large parcel of shares changed hands.

Warburg Securities, the broker, found a home for a line of almost 9 million shares, worth about £56 million at 622p each. The seller was Hutchinson Whampoa, the Hong Kong trading group, headed by Mr Li Ka-Shing, a wealthy businessman, which has decided to sell its near-5 per cent holding. Talks last year between the two sides ended in failure and Pearson gave a warning that it would resist any attempt by Hutchinson to increase its holding.

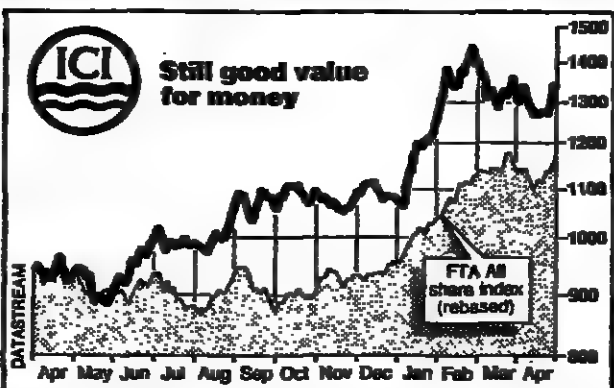
Last night, dealers were claiming that the mystery buyer of the stake was Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, who has just sold his 26 per cent stake in Eutel, the news agency and financial information publisher, to Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, for £64.4 million.

Pearson has been the subject of persistent takeover talk since Hutchinson declared its holding and this latest flurry of activity in the shares can only heighten speculation.

The Pearson share price continued to nudge towards their peak with a rise of 18p to 625p yesterday as a total of 21 million shares were traded. At these levels, Pearson is capitalized at £1.27 billion. But last night, a bid from Mr Maxwell was being ruled out. Market men claimed that such a move would almost certainly run into trouble from the Monopolies Commission.

The rest of the equity market continued to extend its lead, still cheered by this week's cut in base rates and hopes of even more in the pipeline. There was selective support for most leading shares, although prices showed signs of running out of steam as the day wore on.

However, another firm start to trading on Wall Street enabled them to finish near their best levels of the day. The FT index of 30 shares closed 3.5 up at 1,612.0, while the FT-SE 100 nudged closer



to its all-time high with a rise of 11.9 to 2,050.5.

Double-figure gains were seen in Hawker Siddeley, 14p to 531p, while rises of 10p were seen in British Aerospace, 652p, BAT Industries, 502p and Blue Circle Industries, 841p.

Government securities finished the day with rises ranging to 2 1/2 in thin trade.

Cookson responded to a bullish lunch at James Capel, the broker, with a 10p rise to 642p, while Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, advanced

to 473p after a "buy" recommendation from Prudential. Phillips & Drew, the broker, was said to be pushing the shares of the Bank of England, up 3p to 724p yesterday, ahead of next month's visit by analysts to the group's hotel and time-share interests in North Carolina. Dealers claim that the visit will give the analysts a chance to speak to Rank's top management, who will be there to meet them.

ICI paused for breath yesterday, losing 7p to £13.45 following this week's bumper first-quarter figures showing pretax profits climbing from £204 million to £334 million. This was greatly above market estimates. Most analysts had

been looking for about £300 million. But the rise on the week so far is still almost 100p and, according to analysts, the share price still has plenty of life left in it yet. Mr Martin Evans, an analyst at County Securities, the broking arm of National Westminster Bank, still regards them as a strong "buy". He describes Mr Denys Henderson's first statement at an annual meeting as chairman as "positive and aggressive".

ICI's strong growth, its acquisition programme, increased market penetration and potential for attracting overseas support for the shares reinforces his view that the group is a three-star "buy".

Bid speculation was revived in Combined English Stores, up another 14p to a new peak of 321p—a rise on the week to date of 44p. Rainers, the jeweller, attempted to arrange a merger earlier this year and failed. Mr Gerald Ratner, the chairman, is said to have ruled himself out of the running.

Now the spotlight has focused on Woolworths, which has been hitting the acquisition trail lately.

Oil shares enjoyed selective support under the lead of BP, which rose 24p to a new high of 949p following the annual meeting. There were also gains for Shell, 20p to £11.90, British, 5p to 246p, Lasso, 2p to 244p.

Union Discount, one of the few remaining independent discount houses, jumped 17p to 915p in response to the news that the Kuwait Investment Office, one of the wealthiest institutions operating in the City, has increased its holding to 1.25 million shares.

TEMPUS

Wellcome victim of Aids drug hysteria

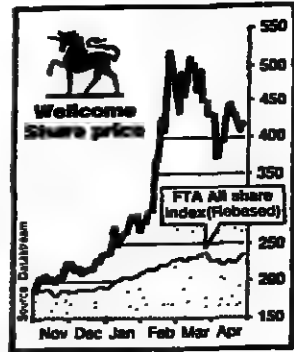
Aids hysteria, like the disease itself, is now so overblown that it could prove fatal for some investors. In other words, unless the market for Retrovir, Wellcome's Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) treatment, lives up to the highest expectations, there will be some badly burnt fingers.

But speculation is the very stuff of markets. For it is precisely the lack of hard information which is buoying up the shares.

The company yesterday dispelled some myths about the drug's side-effects, method of manufacture and potential supply. But the essential numbers on which investment decisions can be based, such as the size of the potential market and significance to Wellcome's profits, are simply not available.

Research into Aids is so intense that Wellcome may not have the market to itself by the time Retrovir starts to make a contribution to profits. Conversely, use of Retrovir with other drugs may prove successful, allowing treatment to extend to Aids-related complex, or even symptomless forms of the disease.

Despite the absence of much information, analyst Jennifer McGregor of Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, calculates that treatment of 50 per cent of an estimated 670,000 patients worldwide with Aids in 1992 could be



worth 49p a share to Wellcome on the most optimistic assumptions. If the rest of Wellcome is valued on a 20 times multiple, this means investors are paying about 5.5 times 1992 earnings for Retrovir. That may not sound like much, but this is a short-term market.

The future potential of Retrovir is fully discounted and short-term considerations are re-asserting themselves. The multiple on this year's earnings is 50, and the shares are likely to prove volatile.

Aberdeen Construction

Making an unprovoked forecast to build up shareholders' confidence is fine if you meet it. But it merely exacerbates the situation if you miss it—particularly if you miss it by miles.

Aberdeen Construction forecast 1986 profits of £5 million last June to restore confidence after reporting poor 1985 figures which were depressed by a £1 million provision against a construction contract.

Things went downhill rapidly in the second half. Otherwise, even taking into account last year's £0.9 million write-off against Aberdeen land values, yesterday's results suggest it was asking a lot of the group, even in June, to meet the forecast.

The dreadful state of the Aberdeen economy affected concrete and extractive activities.

Even the construction division made little real progress after writing back the 1985 provision, remembering that a large proportion of the profit came from the buoyant South of England.

A full year's inclusion of the Britoil building on the Hill of Rubislaw accounted for the higher rental income.

The balance sheet shows net debt of more than 35 per cent—the level of debt is the same but the percentage has risen as the Rubislaw development has been written down.

The group should make at least £5 million this year. But until the local market improves and the new management finds its feet, speculative interest alone will keep the shares at current levels.

Virgin plays market's song

Virgin's stock market rating has more to do with its glamorous chairman than its immediate profit potential, although its first results as a listed company were up to expectations.

Retail and vision (film, video and television) activities are emerging as useful contributors, reflecting both the investment made in the competitive retail market and expansion of the vision interests.

The purchase of Rushe Post Production provides an entry into the advertising commercials market and strengthens the overall man-

agement of the vision business.

Music, the principal profit earner, had a dull six months, as there were few significant releases. This will be corrected over the next year although the importance of the back catalogue—accounting for two-thirds of earnings—should not be forgotten.

A top hit in the US at present is helping to establish the new operation but no profits are likely for about two years. The potential is considerable but start-up costs are £1.5 million a year.

The imminent ADR listing on Nasdaq underpins Vir-

gin's US expansion ambitions. In time, the tax charge will be lower as the proportion of French and West German profits fall in relation to the US. More than 70 per cent of profits come from overseas.

Forecasts for 1986-87 of £25 million seem very achievable. The shares are selling on price/earnings ratio of 22.2 times, leaving little upside in the short term.

However, Virgin has some interesting developments up its sleeve and will also benefit as the investment community becomes more familiar with its businesses. One to watch.

THE TROCADERO IS FOR SALE. FREEHOLD.



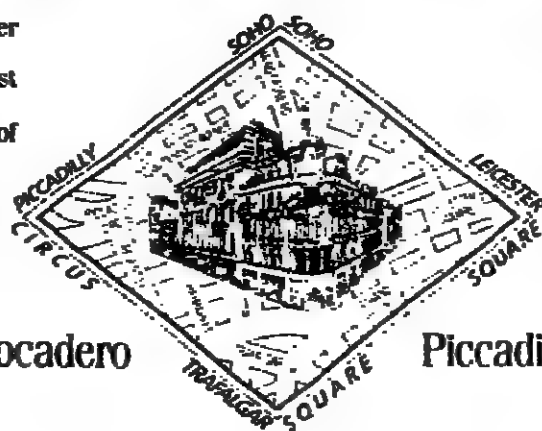
The Property

The Trocadero has been part of London's legend since the eighteenth century.

Whether as a tennis court, a music hall, a dance hall or the most spectacular of the J Lyons Corner Houses, the building has always reflected the pace and style of the life around it. In 1986, around 7 million people visited

the Trocadero, more than half of them under 40. The Guinness World of Records exhibition has made the Troc the fourth most visited fee-paying attraction in London (along with Madame Tussaud's, the Tower of London and London Zoo).

The re-emergence of the domestic day trip to London provides a new homegrown market, and the renaissance of the cinema makes it a natural meeting place.



The Trocadero

Piccadilly Circus

The Potential

The space offered is 221,000 square feet on a 2 acre site.

There are 46 units, with a current annual gross rental income of £1,850,000.

There's a disco, a casino and a cinema. But no skating rink, fitness centre, luxury office suites, studios, or apartments. Yet.

There is, however, 50,000 square feet undeveloped.

The property is for sale freehold. Which isn't an opportunity that comes along twice. For further details:

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Company/Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel _____
Nature of Business _____
No. of employees _____
No. of installed PCs _____

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BP survey uprates Forties reserves

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 16 points to 2,270.26. Ford was the most actively traded issue, up by 4 to 91%.

Oaxons (*387) 351 48 68 — 5 9 — 2100
 April 30, 1997 . Total contracts 39198 . Calls 25319 . Puts 7839 .
 FT-SE Index: Calls 2915 . Puts 2809

Interest Rate C

Allied Irish Banks plc announces t
 from close of business on 29th
 its Base Rate was reduced from 10

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48%	48%	Seagram	83%	92%
40%	38%	Shelco 'A'	24	24%
20%	20%	Thmsn N 'A'	29%	29%
4%	4%	Varty Op	2.85	2.90
86%	84%	WCT	16%	18%
78%	77	Weston	37%	37

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For a copy of the Annual Report write to the Secretary, Midland Bank plc, Poultry, London EC2P 2BX



SUN LIFE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE RISK ON YOUR PROXY FORM.

Sun Life shareholders have all enjoyed an exceptional return on their investment over the last ten years.

Resolutions proposed by Runic Nominees Limited

Special Business	For	Against
7. To appoint Mr J. M. Middlemas as an additional director		
8. To appoint Mr D. R. G. Marler as an additional director		
9. To appoint Mr M. Rapp as an additional director		

Dividends per share have soared from 3.1p to 28.5p.

That's a 26.1% compound growth. Easily more than the nearest rival.

It compares rather well with a sector average of 18.6%.

During the same period, clients have entrusted us with funds that have swelled from £895.3 million to nearly £5 billion.

Added to that, we've expanded our portfolio, doing particularly well in unit trusts where we've won many accolades from the financial press.

A most satisfying performance to say the least.

But one shareholder however, is still not content.

It seeks to gain a more influential role in your company.

Namely, seats on the Sun Life Board.

The Liberty Life Group of South Africa is proposing three of its own

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY plc

PROXY CARD

FOR USE AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 MAY 1987



PLEASE TEAR OFF BEFORE POSTING THE SECTION OPPOSITE

The Chairman of the Meeting
Please to vote for the/for the
at Goldsmith's Hall, Foster
London, EC4A 3DF.
Make your votes to be cast
on the form for which no indication is
in prepared at the Meeting.
the Meeting or" and insert the
token. A Proxy need not be a

YOUR DIRECTORS
UNANIMOUSLY
RECOMMEND THAT
YOU VOTE AS
INDICATED BELOW

Resolutions proposed by Directors

Ordinary Business	For	Against
1. To receive the directors' report and approve the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 1986		
2. To re-elect PETER JAMES GRANT as a director		
3. To re-elect GERALD JAMES ALFRED JAMESON as a director		
4. To re-elect JEREMY PEMBERTON as a director		
5. To re-appoint Peter Warwick, McKinnon and Gane Jackson as joint auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration		

Special Business

6. To empower the directors to allot securities as if s.90(1) of the Companies Act 1985 did not apply, thereby

Resolutions proposed by Runic Nominees Limited

Special Business	For	Against
7. To appoint Mr J. M. Middlemas as an additional director		
8. To appoint Mr D. R. G. Marler as an additional director		
9. To appoint Mr M. Rapp as an additional director		

Signed

Dated this _____ day of _____ 1987

Name

1. To be effective this proxy must be lodged at the address overleaf or at the Registrar's Department, 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7RN not less than forty-eight hours before the time of the Meeting.

2. Any alteration must be indicated by the person(s) signing this form.

3. If the proposer is a Corporation, this proxy must be either signed by its Common Seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney duly authorised in writing.

4. In the case of joint holders the vote of the senior who tenders a vote whether in person or by proxy will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of other joint holders. For the purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand on the Register.

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employees as additional directors.

Since Liberty already has a 25.7% interest in the Society, it's certainly no surprise that the Sun Life Board is determined to stop this back door bid for control.

We believe the proposals put the interests of the business, and those of the rest of the shareholders, at risk.

And we urgently recommend you vote against it.

SUPPORT YOUR BOARD ~ USE YOUR PROXY ~ NOW



A vice-chain
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LONDON FINANCIAL FORUM
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canteen.
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BASE RATE
Bank of Ireland
Base rate
First National
Securities Limited
announces that
with effect from
1st May 1987
the base rate for
lending will be
10 1/2 %

A vice-chairman for Morgans

Morgan Grenfell Group: Mr George Law has been appointed a vice-chairman.

Whitlock Corporation: Mr Keith Green is made president.

CH Industrials: Mr David Nash becomes managing director of both Beclawat and Tensator. Mr John Thurston is made non-executive deputy chairman of the two companies.

APPOINTMENTS

National Westminster Bank: Mr Trevor Adamson becomes deputy regional director, North, with Mr Barry St George Austin Teed as a director and chairman of the Eastern Regional Board.

Montagu Loeb Stanley: Mr Julian Tregoney has been named managing director in succession to Mr Robert Froy.

Denton Hall Burgin & Warren: Mr Philip Goodwin, Mr Ian Hodgson and Mr Andrew Nitch-Smith become partners.

Willington Medicals: Mr Barrie Thompson is made a director and general manager.

Budget: Mr Tony Birch has been made managing director. Theodore Goddard: Mr Philip Bulley, Mr Peter Jackson, Miss Victoria Staveley-Taylor, Mr Don Turner and Mr Philip Woolfson join the partnership.

Arthur Young: Mr John Brimacombe, Mr Graham Morgan, Mr Richard Smeed and Mr Michael Tandy are made partners.

THIRD MARKET

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Offer	Change
450	180	180	Abesent Group	380	410	n/c	
50	10	10	Aberdeen Am Petrol	29	32	n/c	
125	110	110	Allied Insurance	120	130	n/c	
60	30	30	Catalyst Comm	58	62	+4	
68	24	24	Carton Beach	58	63	-2	
195	121	121	Edinburgh Inv	195	200	+5	
41	10	10	Epilinton Oil Ireland	41	43	n/c	
33	17	17	Do. Warrants	27	29	+2	
46	16	16	Thames Holdings	46	52	+6	
133	112	112	Unit Group	110	115	n/c	

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	91.00	91.00	90.94	90.96	4748
Sep 87	91.20	91.20	91.22	91.24	781
Dec 87	91.28	91.28	91.22	91.25	625
Mar 88	91.33	91.33	91.13	91.13	0
Jun 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Three Month Eurodollar					
Jun 87	92.55	92.62	92.53	92.53	5579
Sep 87	92.25	92.25	92.19	92.19	2893
Dec 87	91.89	92.04	91.86	91.86	573
Mar 88	91.78	91.84	91.77	91.76	255
Jun 88	91.50	91.60	91.50	91.50	10
Sep 88	91.41	91.41	91.41	91.41	10
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
US Treasury Bond					
Jun 87	91.04	91.30	90.25	91.25	5895
Sep 87	90.18	91.30	90.18	90.30	35
Dec 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Long Gilt					
Jun 87	125.12	125.25	125.00	125.01	32508
Sep 87	125.10	125.12	125.02	125.02	352
Dec 87	125.12	125.12	125.02	125.02	0
Mar 88	125.12	125.12	125.02	125.02	0
FT-SE 100					
Jun 87	203.70	203.70	203.70	203.70	987
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
April 13	May 1	July 23	August 8
Call options were taken out on 30/4/87 Royal Insurance, Southern Standard, Property Trust, Abaco, W Morris, Camford Engineering, Sears, Pict Petroleum, Hobson, TV-AM, GFI Bailey, Body Shop Int'l, Bank of Ireland, Welfman, Haly Leisure, Helical Bar, Birtles, Paddy Puck, Pictorial, Marley, Tyson, Norfolk Capital Group, Borden, PUC Royal Insurance, Property Trust, Conroy Pat.			

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Spot rates	1 month	3 months
N York 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
London 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Amsterd 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Brussels 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Copenhagen 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Dublin 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Frankfurt 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Hamburg 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Paris 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Rome 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Stockholm 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Switzerland 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Vienna 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270
Zurich 1.0220-1.0270	April 30	1.0220-1.0270	1.0220-1.0270

Starting index compared with 1975 was up at 73.2 (day's range 73.1-73.3).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina dollar	2.5227-2.5643	Ireland	1.4950-1.4955
Australia dollar	2.3558-2.3691	Malaysia	2.1220-2.1230
Bahian dollar	0.6250-0.6250	Malaysia	2.4755-2.4755
Brazil cruzeiro	1.7015-1.7015	Portugal	0.1220-0.1220
Cyprus pound	0.7775-0.7775	Canada	1.3370-1.3370
French franc	0.0665-0.0665	Denmark	0.8075-0.8075
German drachma	0.1900-0.1900	Finland	0.1220-0.1220
Hong Kong dollar	0.1220-0.1220	France	1.4950-1.4950
India rupee	0.0080-0.0080	Germany	2.0175-2.0175
Kuwait dinar	0.4485-0.4485	Italy	1.3700-1.3700
Malaysian dollar	4.1187-4.1187	Japan	140.10-140.20
Mexico peso	191.00-191.00	Netherlands	1.2900-1.2900
New Zealand dollar	2.9591-2.9591	Spain	165.50-165.50
Saudi Arabian riyal	0.0270-0.0270	Sweden	1.3370-1.3370
Singapore dollar	0.5071-0.5071	Switzerland	1.4950-1.4950
South Africa rand	0.3180-0.3180	Thailand	0.1220-0.1220
UAE dirham	0.0500-0.0500	UK	1.0000-1.0000
Yemen rial	0.0000-0.0000	USA	1.0000-1.0000

These supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Ecol.

Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson Limited is pleased to announce that with effect from 1st May, 1987, the mortgage base rate will be 11% per annum and the personal loan base rate will be 10% per annum.

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Interest Rates

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. announces that its base rate for lending will change from 10% to 9½% with effect from 29th April 1987.



Grindlays Bank p.l.c.

A member of the ABN Group of Companies
Head Office: Grindlays Bank plc,
Minerva House, Montague Close, London SE1 9DF.

BANK OF IRELAND BASE RATE

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 1st May 1987 its Base Rate is decreased from 10% to 9.50% p.a.

Bank of Ireland
Established 1783
Area Office: 36 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DP

BANK OF WALES BASE RATE

Bank of Wales announces that its Base Rate has been decreased from 10% to 9.5% with effect from 29th April 1987.

BANK OF WALES
BANC CYMRU
Taking Care of Business

Bank of Wales PLC
Head Office: 114-116 St. Mary Street,
Cardiff, CF1 1XJ.
A member of Bank of Scotland Group.

First National Securities

Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st May 1987 its base rate for lending will be 10½%.

First National Securities Ltd, First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

New Interest Rates For Savers & Borrowers

With effect from 1st May 1987 the rate of interest paid on Investment Shares will be reduced to 5.00% p.a. net. The rates of interest on all other classes of shares and deposits except S.A.Y.E. gross interest accounts and A.Y.C.s will be reduced by 1.00% p.a. net from the same date.

The rate of interest on gross interest accounts and A.Y.C.s will be reduced by 1.40% p.a. gross from 1st May 1987.

The rates of interest on mortgages (in appropriate cases the basic rates) will be reduced by 1.00% p.a. from 1st May 1987.

In cases where mortgage interest rates are subject to notice, the reduction will take place after the appropriate notice period which will commence on 1st May 1987.



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MONEY & GOLD

The Bank of England said it provided the market with assistance worth £487 million yesterday afternoon. It bought £106 million of bills in band one at 9½ per cent, £339 million in band two at 9½ per cent and £352 million in band three at 9½ per cent. The rates were unchanged from the lower levels established on Tuesday.

Base Rates %
Cleaning Banks 9½
Discount House 10½
Overnight High 10 Low 8
Week fixed 9½

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying Selling

2 month 9½ 2 month 8½

3 month 9 3 month 8

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)

1 month 9½-9½ 2 month 9½-9½

3 month 8½-9½ 6 month 9½-9½

Trade Bills (Discount %)

1 month 10 2 month 9½

3 month 9½ 6 month 9½

Overnight open 9½ close 10

1 week 9½-9½ 2 month 9½-9½

3 month 9½-9½ 6 month 9½-9½

Local Authority Deposits (%)

2 days 9½ 7 days 9½

1 month 9½-9½ 2 month 9½-9½

3 month 9½-9½ 6 month 9½-9½

Local Authority Bonds (%)

1 month 9½-9½ 2 month 9½-9½

3 month 9½-9½ 6 month 9½-9½

9 month 9½-9½ 12 month 9½-9½

Sterling CDs (%)

1 month 9½-9½ 3 month 9½-9½

6 month 9½-9½ 12 month 9½-9½

Dollar CDs (%)

7 days 7½-7½ 3 month 7½-7½

6 month 7½-7½ 12 month 7½-7½

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Dollar call 8½-9½

7 days 8½-9½ 1 month 8½-9½

3 month 7½-7½ 6 month 7½-7½

Deutschmark call 4½-5½

7 days 3½-3½ 1 month 3½-3½

3 month 3½-3½ 6 month 3½-3½

2 days 2½-2½ 1 month 2½-2½

3 month 2½-2½ 6 month 2½-2½

Swiss Franc call 6½-6½

7 days 6½-6½ 1 month 6½-6½

3 month 6½-6½ 6 month 6½-6½

7 days 4½-4½ 1 month 4½-4½

3 month 4½-4½ 6 month 4½-4½

BULLION

Gold \$452.50-453.00

Kruggerand (per coin, ex vat)

\$ 455.50-456.50 (\$274.75-276.75)

Sovereigns (new, ex vat)

\$ 107.00-108.00 (\$64.25-65.00)

Pound sterling

\$ 805.00 (\$203.00)

Silver

\$ 7.5500-8.0500 (\$4.7850-4.8500)

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance

Scheme IV Average reference rate for

interest period April 1, 1987 to

April 30, 1987 inclusive: 9.84% per

cent.

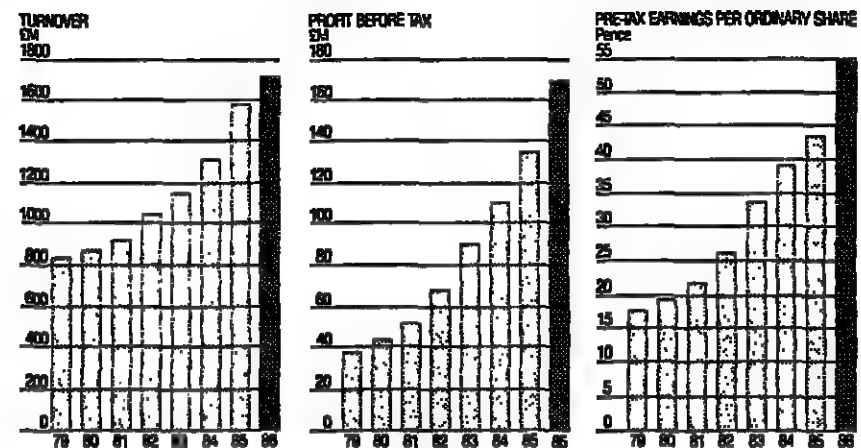
BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	9.50%
Adam & Company	9.50%
BCI	9.50%
Chibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Creds	9.50%
Co-operative Bank	9.50%
C. Hoare & Co	9.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.50%
Lloyds Bank	9.50%
Nat Westminster	9.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.50%
TSB	9.50%
Chibank NA	9.50%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

TARMAC CONTINUES TO BUILD ON SUCCESS

Turnover up to £1.73 billion.
Pre-tax profit up by 26%
to a record £170.5 million.
Pre-tax earnings per share up
from 43.5 pence to 54.8 pence.



Group Chairman Sir Eric Fountain said: 'I am extremely pleased to report once again a record year for the Tarmac Group. The increase in profit in 1986 stems mainly from organic growth, and reflects great credit on the management of our five divisions and indeed on all of the Group's employees at home and overseas.'

Eric Fountain

Copies of the 1986 report and accounts will be available on May 15th from the Secretary, Tarmac PLC, Edinghall, Wolverhampton WV4 6JP.

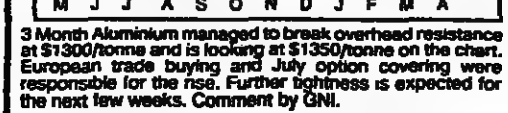
Tarmac Group

Quarry Products, Housing, Construction, Industrial Products, Properties.

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

COMMODITIES

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ممكن من الامور

CREDIT CARDS

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Britain's love affair with plastic money

This country is the biggest user of credit cards in Europe, with more than 22 million in daily use — and the promise of lower interest could mean even greater spending

The British are addicted to plastic money. The number of credit and charge cards in issue in this country dwarfs that of any other country in Europe and the market is not yet saturated.

Barclaycard, the largest single issuer in Britain, gave out 786,000 new cards last year.

Figures compiled by Visa, one of the credit-card systems which, along with Mastercard, Access dominates the UK market, show how far ahead Britain is.

There is a total of 22.6 million credit and charge cards in this country compared with a mere 6.9 million in France.

The British addiction to plastic money owes much to the way our cash payments system has developed. West Germany, for instance, has invested heavily in the Eurocheque system. But it also owes much to the efficiency of the High Street banks in selling the product.

Barclaycard was launched in 1966 and it took the public and the other banks a little time to grasp the potential of the new payment method. Since then the banks have rediscovered how profitable consumer finance can be and have been enthusiastic promoters.

Martin Rutland, the media services manager for Access, says: "It is amazing how far credit cards have come since the early days. To begin with, they were an alternative form of credit. Now they are simply another method of payment. People used them as a shopping aid in supermarkets and petrol stations. Now they use cards to pay for anything from the electricity bill to the TV licence."

As the number of cards on issue grew, the biggest headache for the issuers was fraud. Losses rose to millions of pounds, but the big companies now claim to have it under control.

"Fraud is not a problem," says Mr Rutland. That said, Access and Visa lost about £8 million each from fraud last year, but the figure has remained at that level for the last three years despite the rising number of cards on issue.

The companies have used technology to help, in the form of holograms and other devices on the cards. But good old-fashioned rewards to sharp-eyed sales assistants has been just as effective.

Last year Access paid out £1.5 million in rewards and recovered 30,000 stolen cards.

The spectre of mounting bad debts and delinquency in payments by customers has, however, recently replaced fraud as the hot topic. Again, the big companies insist that there is no problem.

"The rate of bad debt has gone up a bit over the years, but not significantly," says Seymour Fortesque, a director of Barclaycard. "Out of 8 million Barclaycard holders, only about one per cent have long-term repayment problems."

Bad debt is up, but not significantly

The increasingly easy access to credit by the public has caused the authorities, from the Government and the Bank of England to consumer groups, to call for more caution from lenders.

The card companies say they are already cautious. "We take the business of creditworthiness very seriously," says Mr Fortesque. "We decline one in every three card applications, and we do not increase people's credit limits as easily as we used to."

The Visa card group, which includes Barclaycard, TSB Trustcard, National Girobank and the Co-Operative Bank, are close to agreeing on a common code of practice. The aim is to prevent cards being issued to inappropriate customers, and the code should become operational within the next few months.

But the big companies blame the smaller card issuers, such as store groups, for giving credit cards a bad name. The big companies operate relatively sophisticated credit-scoring techniques, but some smaller companies have no check on customer creditworthiness.

"Some stores offer their cards on the back of our credit-scoring," said Mr Rutland. "If an applicant for a store card already has a Visa or Access card, the store goes ahead and gives him one of their own. That is irresponsible, and not the way to go about issuing credit cards."

There are plans to set up a central credit checking agency, where people's total indebtedness

may be kept on record, to make credit assessment easier.

The most notable newcomer to the market has been Marks & Spencer, which has issued more than one million cards in less than two years. The cards can still only be used in M & S outlets where no other credit cards are accepted, but their use may eventually be extended.

Unusually for a store card operator, M & S also intends to take over the processing of the card, which is now handled by the Bank of Scotland.



discussion as to whether it is eligible because the group was established for banks, and a society does not necessarily qualify on all counts.

But the likelihood is that its application will be successful.

The signs are that the market itself is becoming increasingly competitive as the scope for expansion declines. "Barclaycard has already captured 80 per cent of Barclays Bank customers, so our efforts are now towards attracting the customers of other banks," says Mr Fortesque. And other bank customers are already well served by Access and other cards.

Few card operators believe the British will carry as many different cards around with them as the Americans do. One or two cards per user appears to be the norm.

The card companies are already adding on a host of extras to attract customers, from free travel insurance to the ability to buy railway tickets by card from special machines. This, however, is unlikely to lead to the "Smartcard" pioneered in France for

'Smartcards' cost much more to produce

some years. This contains detailed financial information about the cardholder on a microchip embedded in the plastic. As a result, it can be used for a wide range of functions. The Americans and the Japanese have also begun experimenting with these.

Yet their technical sophistication makes them much more expensive to produce: a Smartcard costs £2 to manufacture compared with 11p for a conventional card.

Additionally, the main credit-card companies worldwide have invested heavily in the familiar magnetic stripe technology. All experiments to extend the use of cards is based on this technology.

Machines placed in retail outlets which transmit details of a card purchase direct to the cardholder's account electronically, without the need for paperwork, identify the card by its magnetic strips. Experiments with debit cards, which will debit a customer's bank account like a

'The easy access to credit cards is now a matter of concern'

cheque, are also based on the magnetic stripe.

So far, credit and charge cards have done a great deal to cut down the huge burden of cheque clearing carried out by the banks. The trend is now to cut down the amount of paperwork generated by the cards themselves by introducing machines to do the business electronically. (Last year Access alone handled 312 million card vouchers.)

This process was helped by the agreement last month between Access and Barclaycard to link their new machines at retail outlets so that either card could be used. American Express will link into the system later this year.

There is also a scheme for a nationwide electronic system being promoted by EFTPOS Ltd, a joint company set up by the 12 clearing banks. The scheme envisages a degree of competition between rival card operators, leading to several individual experiments in Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale. Barclays, Midland and NatWest all have pilot schemes running in various parts of the country.

If all goes smoothly, possibly a large assumption, a nationwide electronic shopping system should emerge in several years' time.

The TSB has recently announced a new home banking initiative using the telephone as the electronic link.

The age of the Smartcard may still be a decade or more away in this country. But until then, the British will not be short of a way in which to use its credit cards.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

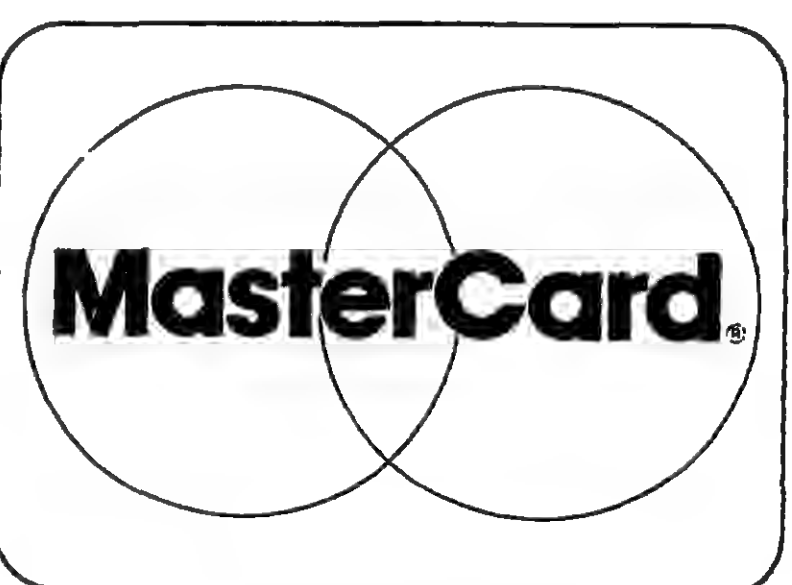
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FOCUS

CREDIT CARDS/2

To the shops, without cash

A paper pile that makes the EEC's meat mountain seem like a molehill in comparison is about to be conquered by the new era of electronic shopping.

Last year 312 million sales and payment vouchers were processed by Access alone after transactions by its 10 million credit-card holders.

The total volume of paper-work involved in shops and banks can only be imagined when one takes a further nine million Barclaycard and nearly three million Trustcard holders into account. With almost 30 million credit cards in circulation in the UK by the end of 1986, the lure of a computerized credit-payment system became overwhelming.

A big step towards this goal of instant cashless shopping was taken on March 23, when Access and Barclaycard announced they would share electronic-payment terminals being installed in shops and businesses around the country.

More than 300 such termi-

nals have already been installed by each company in a pilot project enabling teething problems to be sorted out before a truly national system is set up, which is likely to involve American Express, too, after the US giant agreed to join Barclaycard in the venture and opened negotiations with Access.

Reciprocity between the two market leaders is likely to spur national installation and public acceptance of the system, as is recognized by Mike Blackburn, head of Access. He said: "It should pave the way for an agreement which will allow all major credit, charge and even store cards to use the terminals."

Much fine detail remains to be worked out, developing the technology of the systems and thrashing out individual costing arrangements between different users.

The technological advance represented by the system will enable retailers and banks to keep pace with the burgeoning growth in credit business and free human resources from the mundane task of counting the

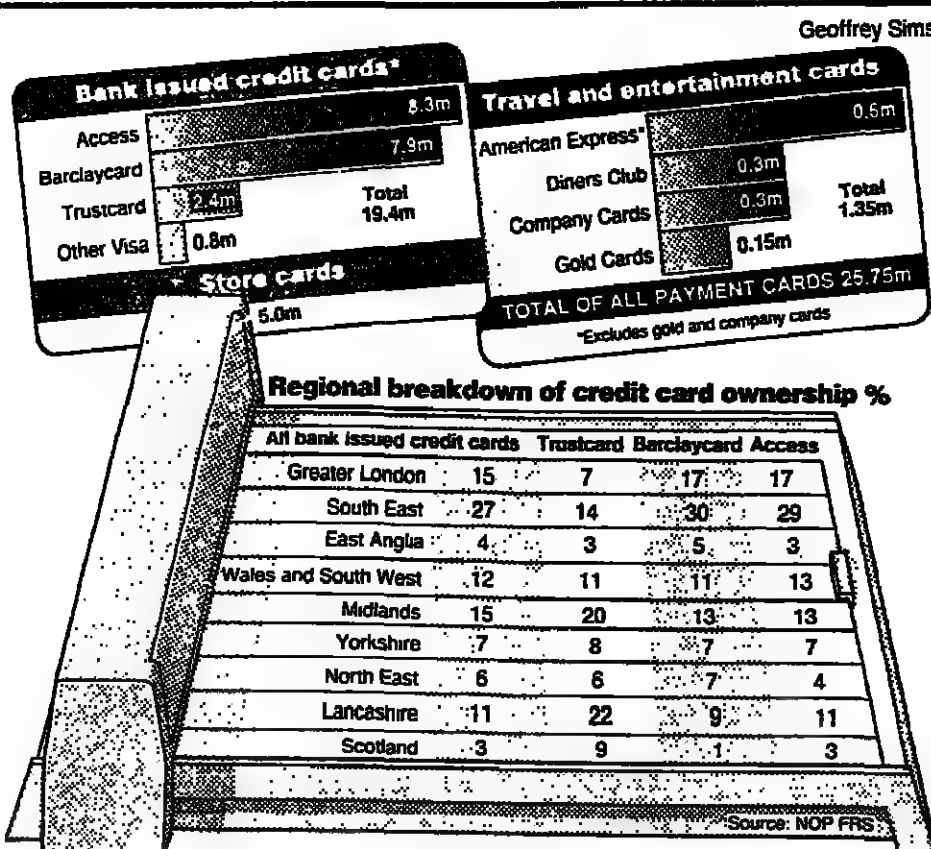
ubiquitous yellow-and-white slips.

The technology involved is based on the magnetic stripe used on automatic cash withdrawal cards. So-called smart cards — essentially micro-computers that give the customer access to a range of services currently associated with information technology — have also been developed, but are unlikely to be implemented in Britain for some time.

Portable information units, which have to be activated by punching in a personal identification number (PIN), smart cards have almost unlimited possibilities. In France, where the smart card was developed, the National Telecommunications authority has already started to install pay telephones which accept them.

By the end of the decade, 100,000 such phones are expected to be in service while other applications are being developed, for example for paying motorway tolls.

GEC has also announced the successful development of a smart card in Britain, which is claimed to improve on the



French and Japanese designs by being sensitive enough to receive instructions through a 20-millimetre screen protecting the main unit. The advanced capabilities of these smart cards are undoubtedly impressive but the British financial world appears to consider many of their functions slightly peripheral to the

main task: cashless shopping.

According to Martin Rutland, the media service manager for Access' Corporate Communications division, the magnetic stripe card performs this task more than adequately.

A customer settling a bill with the electronic-payment credit card allows it to be

swiped through a special unit manufactured by top electronic companies such as Racal. The shop assistant will then enter the right amount on the keyboard and details of the transaction will be printed out.

The customer signs the receipt to validate the signature on the card and the

transaction is punched through, transmitted on British Telecom lines to the card company's computer system.

An authorization number is then printed on the receipt and after the sales information has been received by the computer, the retailer's bank account is credited and the card-holder's credit debited.

The same principle lies at the heart of EFTPOS (electronic funds transfer at the point of sale), being drawn up by the 12 clearing banks under the auspices of EFTPOS UK Ltd. Many of the same benefits — faster service for the retailer, improved security for the bank and more convenient shopping for the consumer, for example — are envisaged for both systems.

The experience of Access and Barclaycard with their cashless shopping systems will be carefully monitored, according to a spokesman for EFTPOS UK, but integration is not envisaged. Credit business and direct debiting from actual bank accounts are different concepts with different ground rules.

Test cells for EFTPOS are expected to be installed in London later this year and letters of intent have already been placed with the initial suppliers, IBM and CAP.

An inaugural service able to handle about 2,000 terminals will then be set up at key stores in Southampton, Leeds and Edinburgh, locations chosen

because each has a definable local population of about half a million people.

Dick Allen, chairman of EFTPOS UK, said however that the emphasis is on evolution, not revolution. After the security, technology and acceptability of the system has been tested by the inaugural service, a "national roll-out" will ensue.

He added: "The option will exist for members to grow by devolving from the central system and thus to develop and market the retailer processing services individually while remaining within the regulations of the National scheme."

Mr Allen has stressed that the inaugural service will have to be fully tested before the ball is set rolling nationally, which is unlikely to occur before 1989. So many aspects of the system, from card technology to consumer expectations, remain in flux that EFTPOS has to be very flexible, he said.

But in 10 years' time an estimated 250,000 electronic funds transfer terminals throughout the UK would be handling up to 10 million transactions a day.

"If you doubt these figures," said Mr Allen, "just consider the way in which the use of cash dispensers has taken off against the rather gloomy forecasts."

Guy Ker

First check the interest charges

The public often behaves as if there were no differences among credit cards. The feeling seems to be that every piece of plastic is exactly the same as the next. This is not only wrong, but can be a costly mistake to make.

There are, it is true, more similarities between Access and Barclaycard than differences. They are both accepted at 250,000 to 300,000 outlets in Britain and over five million abroad. Their repayment systems work the same way and they charge almost identical rates of interest — currently an annual percentage rate of 26.82 per cent.

Midland Bank (a member of the Access group) is reducing its APR on credit card accounts to 23.4 per cent from June 1. But competition does not take place on price because consumers do not respond to lower interest rates. So competition occurs on the add-on extras. Barclaycard is probably rightly ahead of the field with these at present. It is a cheque card as well as a credit and cash card, unlike Access.

Barclaycard's add-ons at least match the best of the extras.

There is the Masterloan scheme, offering personal loans up to 60 months between £300 and £7,500 at an APR of 19.7 per cent. Like personal loan schemes linked to other cards, the interest rate compares reasonably with loans from your bank — you do not have to go for an interview with the credit-card loan. There are travel aids such as discounts on holidays from tour operators, travel vouchers which enable customers to pre-pay part of their holiday and a travellers cheque service. Barclays is so far unique in offering the Pinpoint service which enables you to buy petrol or train tickets from certain petrol and railway stations by using your card in a machine which automatically debits your account and sells you the goods.

Access is unlikely to be far behind in these experiments, however.

Both card companies are now moving into the electronic data processing in stores which cuts out the need for paper vouchers. Another selling point is the prestige card for richer customers. The American Express Gold card is probably the best known of these.

Add-ons aside, the element users should look at most closely is the interest charge. Customers do not do this often enough.

The difference between the two big card companies and many smaller "store cards" can be enormous.

Debenhams' card, one of the first and most successful store cards, charges an amazing 34.4 per cent APR. If you pay by direct debit it drops to 29.5 per cent — still well above what the big companies charge.

The Storehouse group, including Mothercare and Habitat, operates a card of its own as does Fenwick, Harrods, Marks & Spencer, Laura Ashley and even Renault, the car manufacturer. They are almost always far

more expensive than Access or Barclaycard and their use is much more restricted, usually only to stores of the single retailing group.

It is not easy to see why store cards are so popular, except that they are generally a source of fairly easy credit. Most stores will give you credit as soon as you ask. It is a temptation too great for many shoppers to resist, but there is a danger of over-extending yourself.

When using a credit card it is often better to ask whether would it be better to use a bank loan instead. Credit-card companies usually argue that though their interest rates look higher than an ordinary bank loan, they are not really higher. Barclaycard claims that once you take the first interest-free month into account and the shorter time period over which credit-card debts are usually paid off, the APR drops from more than 26 per cent to around 19 per cent.

It is a complex and imprecise calculation and the best advice is to think carefully what you need the money for before borrowing.

Longer-term loans — over a year, say — are probably most cheaply done through conventional bank loans. Shorter-term credit costs little more by credit card and you have more flexibility and convenience with a card. A charge card, where the user is required to repay the debit balance within a month, is another alternative as very short-term credit. The cost of the card is an upfront fee paid when the card is issued, so value for money depends to an extent on the amount you use it. But for people with strong self-control, a cheaper method is still to use an ordinary credit card. If you repay at the end of each month, you are charged no interest, as on a charge card, but there is no fee either. In fact, some 40 per cent of credit-card holders use their cards much like this, which may explain why charge cards like American Express and Diners Club have attracted only around two million customers in this country.

The danger of becoming over-extended and being unable to pay off a credit-card balance is something that card-holders must always watch.

Most card companies operate credit-scoring techniques based on your age, income, profession and even address. But users can still get into trouble, particularly if a change in circumstance affects their income.

Card companies claim to be sympathetic. They will often write to the customer and try to find out what the problem is. If it appears to be a temporary hiccup, they may waive repayments for a few months. But card companies cannot afford to acquire the reputation of being soft touches. Fortunately it is still a relatively rare occurrence. Last year, Access and Barclaycard had difficulties with about one per cent of their card-holders.

RT



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FOCUS



Every month, a Great Train Robbery

Fraud last year cost Access and Barclaycard more than £15 million between them in the UK alone.

That may not sound much in the context of 19 million credit cards in circulation — fewer than £1 a card a year — but there is no room for complacency in the continuing battle of wits with the fraudsters.

Barclaycard's fraud losses were down from 21p in every £100 in 1984 to 14p in every £100 last year. Even so, John McCarthy, head of fraud prevention at Barclaycard, says that "complacency is not in our vocabulary".

Credit-card companies are

coy about giving away too much detailed information about the extent of fraud, but Barclaycard investigators were particularly successful in breaking up five well-organized fraud groups last year, leading to arrests.

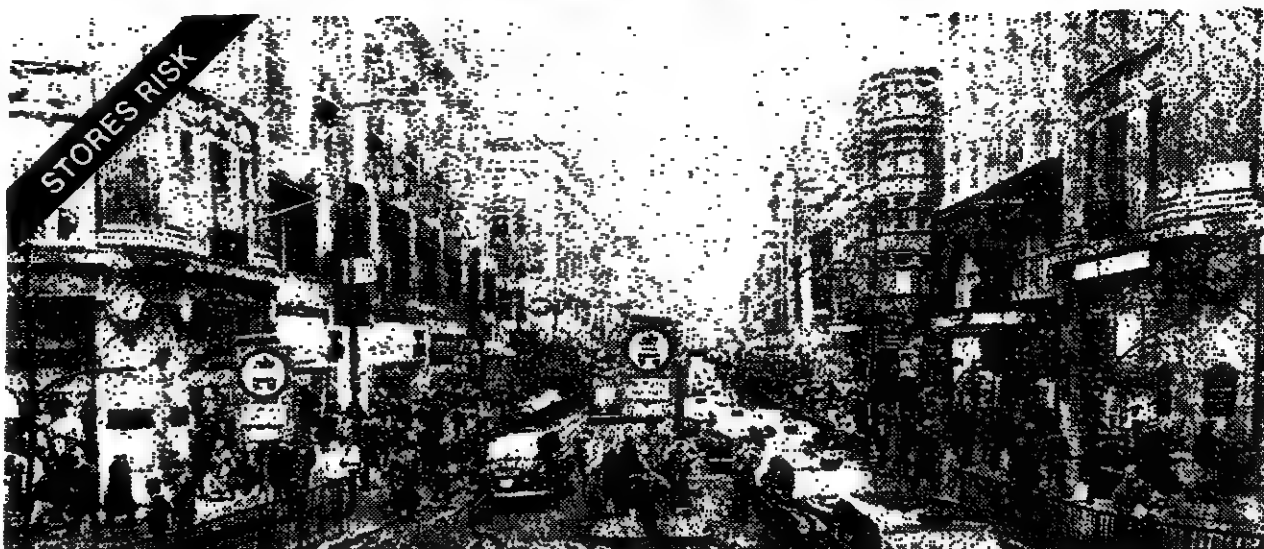
The groups were operating largely in the London area and were causing fraud losses with the use of stolen cards at the rate of between £3,000 and £5,000 a day during the height of their operations.

There was also a massive clampdown on Barclaycard fraud at garages last year, involving no fewer than 15,000 visits by fraud controllers, and greater co-operation

from garage staff. The result of this concerted effort, say Barclaycard, was a reduction of garage fraud from 12 per cent to 8 per cent of total fraud losses.

Nor are the problems confined to these shores. Barclaycard says it scored heavily in 1986 by reducing foreign losses. This was achieved through increased co-operation with other Visa issuers in Europe, which resulted in tackling fraud in problem countries such as Italy, Spain and France.

Outside Europe, the Far East still gives Barclaycard cause for concern. And not just for the obvious reasons. In Japan, for example, few transactions are queried simply because the sales assistant



keeps in contact with retail security personnel.

More specifically, Access has produced a training film designed to increase sales assistants' awareness of the sort of tricks used by credit-card thieves. Access has tightened up its system for identifying which areas and retail outlets are fraud targets.

One ploy which has been successfully contained by the credit-card companies is counterfeiting. The use of a hologram which requires sophisticated laser-printing techniques for reproduction on plastic cards has kept this form of credit-card crime at bay.

DataCard, which claims to be the world's largest manufacturer of plastic cards and

A store of information

card systems, has recently developed a new system which pre-prints the holder's personal details, including photograph and signature as a means of helping eliminate fraud in the card market.

But no one is in any doubt that credit-card fraud is a never-ending cat-and-mouse game.

So-called "smart" cards, which have yet to be used in the UK but which have undergone trials in the US and France, may prove a big weapon in the fraud fight because the card-holder will have to verify a store of personal information before completing a transaction.

Other developments being toyed with include a sophisticated form of signature verification, lip prints and eyeball scans.

If that all sounds too fanciful, remember that in the UK in 1986 all issuers of plastic cards — the credit and charge card companies, banks, building societies and issuers of store cards — suffered losses which, even allowing for inflation, are estimated by Mike Blackburn to be the equivalent of the Great Train Robbery every month.

Peter Gardland

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Crackdown on fraud

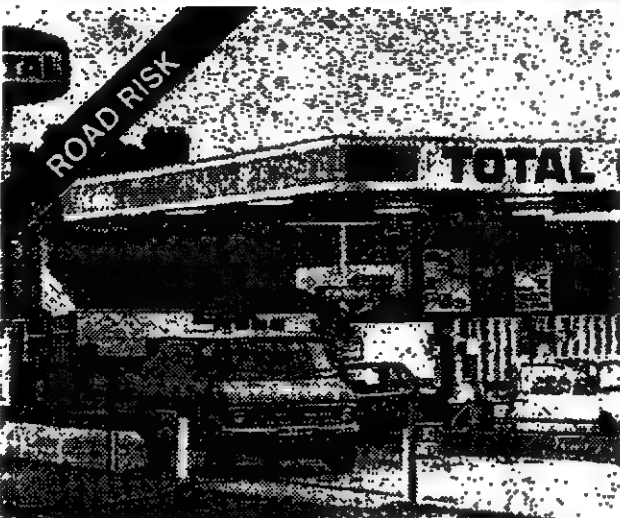
would not risk the "loss of face" caused to the cardholder if the transaction were declined as a result of an authorization call.

Several ingredients are necessary for a successful crackdown on fraud, but the single most important one is the co-operation of retailers and the alertness of their staff.

Every so often Access will inform retailers of a random zero limit level. This means that, for example, a camera retailer's limit of £100, below which staff are not required to get telephone authorization before completing a sale, is suspended. Equally, the £50 limit found in many off-licences may be temporarily reduced to nil.

Tactics such as this are commonplace, especially in the high-spending pre-Christmas period. The incentive for sales assistants, and one which more than compensates for their inconvenience, is a £50 reward for every lost or stolen card recovered. In 1986 Access paid out £1.5 million in rewards to recover 30,000 cards in this way, leading to more than 3,500 arrests.

But despite the high risks for credit-card fraudsters, their ingenuity seems as unlimited as their sheer cheek is breathtaking.



● To catch a thief: Fraud cost two credit card companies £15 million last year. Garages and West End stores are high on the list, and abroad, Japan is causing concern because sales assistants will not risk "loss of face" to suspect card holders

The mock bandaged hand which provides the excuse for a poor facsimile signature is enough to put most sales assistants on alert. The same goes for "Mrs Smith" who is not wearing a wedding ring.

And it is not only the lone handbag-analysers and car-park prowlers who use cards for a few quick purchases, then throw them away before the plastic becomes "hot" and often before the owner even realizes they are missing. There are the organized criminals working in groups, with a network of thieves to

steal the cards and other teams who are the "buyers".

There are many instances of cards being stolen systematically in the West End in the morning and being used in shopping centres as far away as Norwich that same afternoon. To add insult to injury, the thieves also use the stolen cards to fill up with petrol for the journeys.

Apart from paying out financial rewards to vigilant retail staff, the credit-card companies wage the fraud war on several other fronts.



WHERE THE MONEY WENT

	Visa %	Access %
Petrol	18	18
Other motoring expenses	5	4
Clothing and footwear	13	13
Travel and holidays	12	12
Electrical goods and cameras	11	11
DIY and home improvements	8	7
Furniture and furnishings	7	9
Business expenses	6	4
Food and groceries	5	7
Entertainment and leisure	4	4

SOURCE: AGS WINDA, 1986

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of Access, cites close co-operation between card organizations and the police, with anti-theft groups in many towns being run either by the police or the local chamber of commerce.

Similarly, the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops provides a forum for discussion on retail theft and

Elastic Plastic

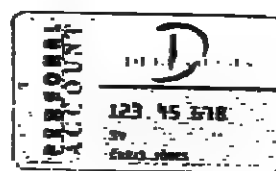
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FOCUS

CREDIT CARDS/4

Giving credit to foreign travel

The growth in foreign travel for business and holiday has increased the use of credit cards. After the introduction of travellers' cheques in 1891, plastic money has been the most dramatic development in facilitating currency transactions.

Yet the full advantages of using credit cards overseas are still not fully appreciated. Unlike foreign banknotes, and to a lesser extent travellers' cheques, there is no need to order a credit card facility before travelling. It is immediately available, and the commission costs, even with sterling travellers' cheques of 1 per cent, are avoided.

The detailed statement of each credit card transaction is a boon to the business people, helping to keep an accurate account of expenses.

The credit period can extend to several months, depending on the speed of the overseas outlet submitting the transaction details to its bank.

Since the final cumulative invoice is converted into sterling, payment is easier and no loss is involved by converting possibly several currencies.

Despite these advantages, a survey by American Express has shown that 82 per cent of companies fund business travel with cash. This is both dangerous in the event of loss,

emergency cash facilities in more than 3,300 outlets.

The wide acceptance of credit cards goes further than travellers' cheques which may be restricted, depending on the issuing body. For example, even China and the Soviet Union accept credit card transactions.

American Express, with more than 22.2 million card users worldwide, have over a million cardholders in the UK.

No special costs arise for the British user of a credit card

overseas, though it is usual to impose a handling charge for local cash advances. For example, the rate agreed by Barclaycard for Visa users is 1.5 per cent for using this service.

Normally no interest is paid on credit-card accounts in credit and few holders operate them like this, but if a visit abroad means that the credit limit may be exceeded, a temporary facility can be granted for an increase.

Visa finds that 42 per cent of active cardholders pay off

their account balance each month and therefore pay no interest.

Access have 1.8 million cardholders who used their credit card abroad last year.

It is interesting to see the monthly breakdown in expenditure abroad: January £15 million, February £9 million, March £12 million, April £21 million, May £18 million, June £22 million, July £25 million, August £31 million, September £34 million, October £30 million, November

£23 million, and December £21 million. This outlay was on 4.6 million transactions amounting to a total £261 million.

There is sometimes misunderstanding about the date used for converting exchange rates into sterling. From April 1, Visa has converted overseas transactions at mid-point rate of exchange and normally transactions are paid into a local bank within three days.

Conal Gregory



Store draws: the ever-widening spread of account cards reaching through the High Street

Between 1981 and 1985, according to the latest available figures from a market researcher, Mintel, the UK's 3.5 million store-card holders virtually doubled to six million. Today, the best retail estimates put store cards at eight to 10 million.

Store cards differ in several important respects from the accepted credit or chargecards like Barclaycard or American Express.

First, and most important to the retailer, the card can only be used for purchases within a store or group of stores. As a financial product, store cards have to be classified as option accounts although many retailers call them charge cards.

A customer has the option to clear money owed for purchases made at the end of each month, avoiding interest payments, or making a minimum payment and paying interest. The rate for most store cards is an APR of 29.8 per cent, 31.4 per cent, 32.9 per cent or as high as 34.5 per cent on budget account instalments paid monthly by cash payment rather than bank direct debit.

This compares to the 26.8 per cent APR charged on outstanding balances by

A sales drive for young spenders

and its best customers. He added: "We want our account customers to feel VIPs, that they're part of the club."

That means special offers, sale preview evenings, privileged customer invitations, cheque cashing up to £50 at no extra charge.

Research shows that once an eligible customer has taken out one storecard, they are unlikely to bother getting another one.

"All the major retail groups are trying to build a captive customer base", explained Mr Bliss.

Storecard customers visit the store more often, spend more while they are there and buy two to three times as much as cash customers.

"The vast majority of customers are interest-rate insensitive", Mr Bliss pointed out. "They only look at the monthly payment figures in pounds and pence."

Chris Chadwick, marketing and sales director, Card Services for the Burton Group, claims 1.5 million Debenhams card holders and another 1 million Personal Account cards used in other Burton Group stores like Dorothy Perkins, Top Man, Top Shop and Principles.

This month the cards are

being relaunched with some hard sell promotions, all aimed at building customer loyalty. The "Debenhams Deal-Out" will present card customers with £10 worth of discount vouchers for every £100 spent in the store.

Mr Chadwick sees a potential five million storecard customers ahead for Burton Group alone. "We're a more plastic-oriented society", he said. "People are getting smarter and looking for better bargains. That's why we're now offering our cardholders tangible hard-nosed benefits."

Doreen King

* Retail Credit Personal Finance Intelligence, Mintel Publications Ltd, KAE House, 7 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DR

House of Fraser, according to Mr Bliss, sees the group's 1.6 million Frasercards as the major communications vehicle between the company

and its best customers. He added: "We want our account customers to feel VIPs, that they're part of the club."

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Seven million foreign deals a year

since travel insurance normally places low limits on cash theft, and is expensive in cash flow.

In the 1985 survey, 460 British companies said they spent a total of £17.4 billion on travel and entertainment and that at any one time they have £780 million advanced in cash for executives to travel abroad — a loss of at least £140 million in potential interest.

Barclaycard, which celebrates its 21st birthday next month, has some seven million transactions outside the UK a year, but does not maintain an analysis of the number of cardholders who use their cards abroad.

Visa is certainly widely recognized on a global basis with 111.95 million cardholders worldwide in 1984, 132.4 million in 1985 and 145.4 million last year. There has also been a dramatic growth in the number of Visa outlets worldwide: up from 4.08 million three years ago to 4.71 million in 1985 and more than 5.29 million last year.

Access, operated by the Joint Credit Card Company, based at Southend-on-Sea, Essex, has more than 10 million cardholders and is the UK's leading credit card. The cards can be used at more than 5.4 million outlets in 170 countries. It has reciprocal agreements with Eurocard and MasterCard, which means that Access can be used at any retail outlet which displays either of these two signs.

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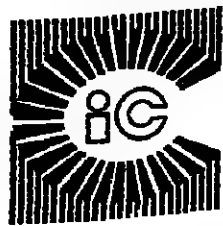
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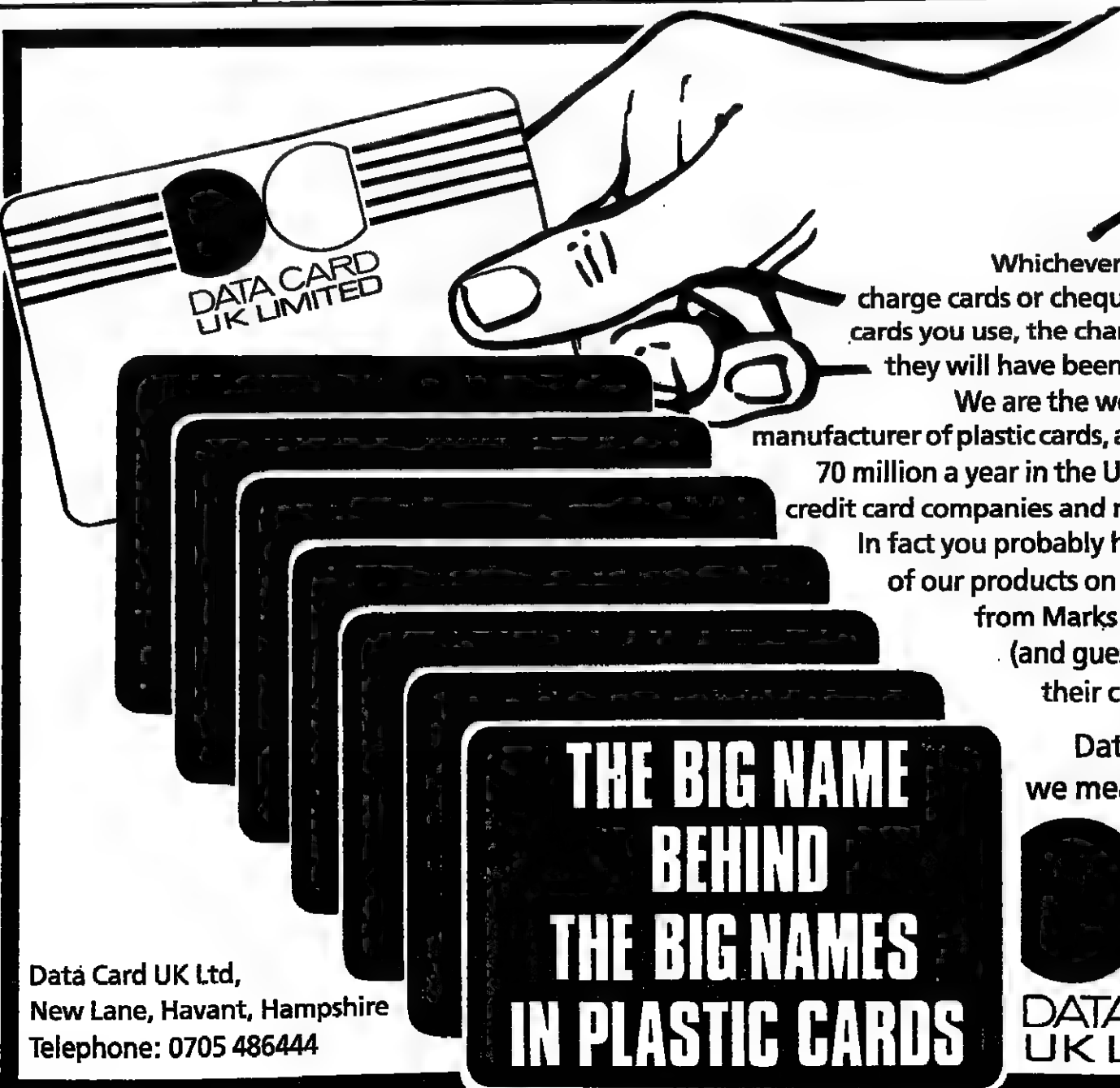
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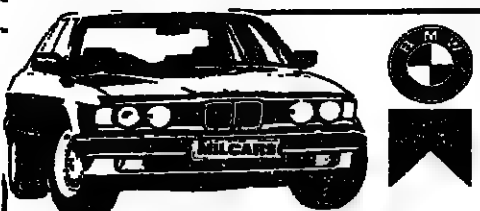


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Motoring by Clifford Webb

New BMW is worth the long wait



BMW 735i: Outstanding addition to the luxury car sector

BMW insist that the 8-month delay being quoted for delivery of its new 7 Series saloon is due to the cautious production build up necessary for all new models and in particular for one featuring so much advanced technology. Whatever the cause, the resulting shortage has created a thriving black market with 735s changing hands at thousands of pounds over the list price.

Now that I have lived with a 735i SE (special equipment) for a week, I can assure readers that this is such an outstanding addition to the luxury car sector that it will continue to be in short supply for a long time yet.

The question that cropped up regularly was "how does it compare with the new Jaguar?" The answer is that there are two very different cars. The first difference is the price. The standard 735i automatic costs £25,850 but fitted with the Special Equipment package of extras including air conditioning, cruise control, alloy wheels and Michelin TRX tyres and leather upholstery, that goes up to £31,750 compared with £26,000 for the top-of-the-range Jaguar Sovereign 3.6.

On the road the BMW has a crisper, more sporty feel and has clearly been set up to please the keen driver. However, the firmer suspension does not iron out low speed

bumps like the Coventry car. Its overall ride comfort and noisy tyres fall short of Jaguar's class leading standards.

BMW is aware of this type

Vital statistics

Model: BMW 7 Series 735i SE

Price: £31,750

Engine: 3430 cc in-line six

Performance: 0-60mph 7.8

secs, maximum speed 146mph

Official Consumption: urban

17mpg, 56mpg, 37.2mpg,

75mpg 30mpg

Length: 16.1 feet

Insurance: Group 9

noise which seems to result

from the very low aspect ratio

Michelin fitted. I understand

that some of the less powerful

three litre 730s which go on

sale here on May 10 (starting price £19,850) will be fitted with higher aspect ratio Continental tyres which should be quieter.

The need to please the

sporty driver is also apparent

in the steering. Both cars have

power assisted steering. The

Jaguar's is a little too light for

some British tastes but ideal

for America - its biggest market.

The BMW goes a fraction

too far the other way and

needs a firm grip on the wheel

to change direction at speed.

Both cars have GermanZF

four speed automatics. Jaguar's

is controlled by the

unique "U" shaped gate with

one leg of the "U" restricted to

manual operation. The BMW

version has a three position

switch offering a choice of 'E'

(economy), 'S' (sport) and 'M' (manual). The automatic change up points are made at lower revs for 'E'. In addition to higher rpm change up, 'S' cuts out the fourth gear overdrive. 'M' simply holds the gear selected to cope with ice and snow.

The 7-Series is more aerodynamically efficient than the Jaguar but unlike some of the latest wind-cheating "smoothies" manages to retain a distinctive personality.

The instrument layout is the best yet for a company that has long set standards in the clarity of its dashboard instrumentation and layout.

The German car also comes top in the size and convenience of its boot.

Summer specials from Vauxhall

Vauxhall has announced two new open-top cars hopefully in time to catch the best of the summer weather. At the time of the announcement we were enjoying the best spell of April sunshine since official records were kept. Wind in the hair motoring was something to look forward to with relish.

Now it has begun to rain reminding me that the key ingredient of any successful convertible for use in our climate is an easy to erect efficient hood. The new Astra GTE 2.0i Convertible and a less powerful 1.6 version have 5 layers of fabric to give a snug, tight fitting roof which incorporates a glass rear window with a heated element.

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MOTOR SPORT

By a Special Correspondent

By Michael Stevenson

perhaps for the last time as several European countries are objecting to the four home countries entering separately. Next year, it is likely that only a British team will compete. It would give him special satisfaction to beat the top-ranked English team, led by Vic Charles and including Charles' cousin, Mervyn Edenne, the lightweight, who will be one of his main rivals.

performance to hold Gosforth to 18-9 in an irritable match that contained only one try. The dynamic club, Aspathra, won the Cumbrian Cup for the ninth time in 11 years, beating Morecambe 19-12, while Hartlepool Rovers, a trifle lucky to reach the Durham final, once there struggled to beat neighbours, West Hartlepool, 15-13.

Sale have made the Cheshire Cup their individual preserve and the only two years that they have not won it, they did not enter. This year they beat

Hartlepool 19-12

But the individual title is what he really wants. It would provide the impetus to commit himself to at least one more year of the gruelling and painful competition, culminating in the 1988 world championship. "I will be 30 next month, and I have learned there are no guarantees in our sport — I might even have to go back to the oil rig to earn my keep."

He feels he has a definite contribution to help bring karate more clearly into the modern sports world. His personal success has been based on planned supplementary fitness programmes, derived from studies to Western boxing, and he angers the sport's traditionalists by refusing to practice *kata*, the classical pre-arranged forms.

that the Official Solicitor acted with complete propriety in bringing the case first to the Court of Appeal and then to their Lordships' House in view both of the public interest aroused by the decision and of its apparent conflict with *Re Eve*.

LORD TEMPLEMAN, also agreeing, added that sterilization of a girl under 18 should only be carried out with the

based almost entirely — and, indeed, understandably so — upon its irreversible nature. The Court of Appeal held that the jurisdiction is unwholin-

It was submitted that the Court of Appeal, in authorizing the operation as the last resort, had not given sufficient weight to the alternative course of experimentation

A further submission was that there lay in the court an inherent jurisdiction in the case of a mentally handicapped subject of any age to sanction, as *parens patriae*, an operation such as that proposed whenever it should be

public whenever it should be considered necessary. Thus, it was argued, some of the urgency was taken out of the case, for a further application could be mounted at any time should alternative methods of

Very much fuller argument would be required before a view could be expressed as to the correctness of that submission, but assuming for present purposes that the jurisdiction continued into full age, his Lordship remained wholly unpersuaded that the Court of Appeal failed

to give full weight to the alternative proposed or erred in any way in its conclusion. It was faced, as their Lordships now were, with the necessity of deciding here and now what was the right course in the best interests of the

The danger to which she was exposed and the speculative nature of the alternative

LORD TEMPLEMAN, also agreeing, added that sterilization of a girl under 18 should only be carried out with the

leave of a High Court judge. A doctor performing a sterilization operation with the consent of the parents might still be liable in criminal, civil or professional proceedings.

A court exercising the wardship jurisdiction emanating

Applications would be rare. Sometimes the judge would

But in the present case the judge was satisfied that it would be cruel to expose the

girl to an unacceptable risk of pregnancy which could only be obviated by sterilization in order to prevent childbirth in circumstances of uncomprehending fear and pain.

Solicitors: Official Solicitor; Mr C. G. Langley, Sunderland; Robbings, Oliver & Blake.

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FOOTBALL: ENGLAND'S MANAGER MUST FACE THE SAD TRUTH ABOUT BRYAN ROBSON

Loyal beyond the call of duty

Izmir

The loyalty of national team managers to their leading players is a virtue which, much more than in club football, tends to be carried beyond the point of rationalization. The evidence of England's cup tie against Turkey here suggests that point may be uncomfortably close for Bobby Robson and his captain.

Managers' comments about their team and the players' performance often seem to be carried on with what the public see — or think they have seen. Part of the fascination of football is difference of opinion. When England lost 3-2 at home to Austria in the autumn of 1965, Alf Ramsey said he was satisfied with the performance. The public groaned, but Alf was vindicated by events.

National managers rely heavily on captains

The manager's comment here, on a bitterly cold evening after England had taken a point from a match they should have won but could have lost, that his captain had been outstanding is particularly hard to accept. From my windswept bench, with litter swirling above my head like seagulls, Bryan Robson looked an often weary, ageing player who was carrying an injury and was in anything but the dominant, vibrant form of the 1982 World Cup.

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

A national manager's loyalty tends, of course, to be exaggerated because he is, if anything, in a more vulnerable position than even a club manager. Matches are relatively infrequent, and the emphasis upon each of them is therefore more intense. It is less easy to retreat, like the club manager, behind the statement: "We will be different next week."

The national manager, unless singularly detached, places an emotional dependence upon his best players, regarding them as the buoyancy tanks on which the balance and thrust of the whole ship depends. It becomes difficult to acknowledge that maybe one of the buoyancy tanks is holed.

International football is punctuated with instances of managers casting a Nelsonian eye upon evidence they prefer to ignore: sometimes, but by no means always, with success.

Billy Wright, who emerged in the post-war England team like a surplus Churchill tank, undoubtedly reached his century of caps, as a relatively limited wing-half/centre-half, thanks

to Walter Winterbottom's unquestioning loyalty. The inter-dependence of manager and captain is often reflected by the captain's echoing loyalty. When Winterbottom finished a tactical talk, he would usually say, "Any comment, Billy?" and while Carter, Finney and others threw glances at one another, Wright would dutifully say, "No, I think you've covered everything, Walter."

Ramsey, with even more justification, leaned enormously on the experience and judgement of Moore, and found it painful when Moore's pace and touch were seen to be in decline in a qualifying tie in Katowice in 1973 to contemplate his replacement. Even Moore's colleagues in the team believed he should stay, yet the time had come for him to make way for a younger man. Reality can be cruel.

Reputations eventually count for nothing

There are endless examples of fine players being retained by managers beyond the moment of benefit: Orlando and Santos from the great Brazilian side of 1958 for the 1966 tournament in England; Amancio, Spain, Masson, of Scotland, in 1978; Graziani, of Italy, in 1982; Zico and Rossi in 1986.

Ron Greenwood, in 1982, had a misplaced loyalty to Keegan, whose form in the final warm-up match in

Finland had been suspect, and the FA became involved in Bilton in a cover-up story about Keegan's fitness which was, in sport, wholly unnecessary, and which set an unfortunate precedent for hedging about Bryan Robson's fitness in Mexico last year, and again this week.

Certainly, there were moments on Wednesday night when the old influence was there: the first-time hooked pass to Lineker, which nearly brought a goal in the first half. But too often Robson's timing was astray, with missed tackles or passes, and by the end of the match, there was the sight of Turkish players running away from him.

Reputations, sadly, eventually count for nothing, and the problem for manager and captain is whether, at 30, Bryan Robson is ever going to recapture that ferocious snap in his performance which made him exceptional. I suspect he is not, nice though it would be to believe he will again score those vital goals from midfield.

There is now a trace of lethargy in his legs, and the stoop of his shoulders. English League football drains you. Before the end of next season, the manager may have to decide whether his captain still carries his weight in the team. It is the harshest decision any manager has to make, but reality cannot be hidden behind post-match euphoria in a down-market tie in Izmir.



Freddie Head all smiles after Miesque's brilliant victory (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Miesque seals Guineas with magical burst

By Michael Seely

The spirit of Nureyev was triumphant again at Newmarket yesterday when his daughter Miesque overwhelmed Milligram and Interval with a brilliant burst of finishing speed in the General Accident 1,000 Guineas.

It is seven years since Francois Boutin saw Nureyev disqualified after beating Known Fact in the 1980 2,000 Guineas. And the great French trainer was speaking both for himself and for Stavros Niarchos when he said: "We were unlucky with the father and this is just compensation."

The legend of the recently-retired Northern Dancer goes on and on, and his granddaughter's acceleration left her rivals standing.

"I was a bit worried when we were shut in," said a triumphant Freddie Head. "She's still a bit shy and I didn't want to go for the gap. But when I switched her she quickened in three strides. She went whoosh and won easily."

At the bushes, Polonia had burst into a clear lead with Walter Swinburn on Milligram and Pat Eddery on Interval poised to launch their respective challenges. Miesque was tracking this pair.

In the dip, Head pulled the 15-8 favourite to the outside and she lengthened her stride to win by a length and a half. Milligram rallied to take second place by a head. Polonia finished fourth and Mamouna, who came home strongly, fifth.

There is no arguing with the

discipline imposed by the form book and Miesque was here confirming the superiority she had shown over Milligram last Autumn in the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp.

Michael Stoute, having the frustrating experience of watching his seventh filly placed in the 1,000 since 1978,

Ajdal pleases in workout

Ajdal, 11-10 favourite to win tomorrow's General Accident 2,000 Guineas, showed himself to be on target in a five-furlong spin with Verdant Boy and Ten No Trumps on the Laneskins yesterday morning (Michael Seely writes).

Watched by Michael Stoute, Sheikh Mohammed, John Leat and Anthony Stred, the Craven Stakes winner looked warm after two canterers on the way to the start, but relaxed in the hands of Tony Kimberley before sprinting past Verdant Boy.

There were no excuses, we were beaten by the better filly on the day.

Miesque, a tough little filly with big ears and an honest head, did not please some paddock critics but looked trained to the minute. "She's very good," said Boutin. "She runs like a greyhound but I'm first going to run her in the French 1,000 on May 17 and then we'll think about her future programme."

Mr Niarchos, the 77-year-old Greek shipping magnate, first had his appetite for racing whetted when Pipe Of Peace finished second to Crepello in

the 1957 2,000 Guineas and third to the same horse in the Derby. He has about 150 horses in training world-wide, but although he still has 14 two-year-olds with Vincent O'Brien, the severity of the Coolmore syndicate was announced last year.

Although Stoute has no firm plans for Milligram, the runner-up was heavily backed for the Oaks after yesterday's race. The daughter of Mill Reef and One In A Million was well laid at 14-1 and 12-1 and is now favourite at 10-1 for the Epsom classic with Ladbrokes.

Earlier in the afternoon, Henry Cecil had shown us a prospective middle-distance filly of championship class when Steve Caughan had sent Indian Skimmer storming home four lengths clear of Perty's Lass in the Pretty Polly Stakes.

Unfortunately, Sheikh Mohammed's Storm Bird filly was never entered for the Epsom Oaks. "I intend to send her to York for the Musidora Stakes and after that for the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot," the six-times champion trainer said. "After that she's in races like the Irish Oaks and the Prix de Diane."

A week ago, Indian Skimmer had made short work of Martha Stevens and Scimitar on the gallops at Newmarket. "I loved with the idea of running her in the 1,000," Cecil continued. "But I didn't think she'd be sharp enough."

Lean Ar Aghaidh underlines Landau's promising future

By John Dorman

Every few years there emerges on the jump racing scene a young jockey with sufficient class and confidence for the pundits to mark him down as a future champion. Four years ago we had Richard Dunwoody, 1987 has been the year of Gay Landau.

In his first full season of racing and still claiming 4lb, Landau, aged 20, and the Stan Mellor-trained Lean Ar Aghaidh (pronounced Lan-A-Rye) led the Grand National from the first fence, and were only beaten into third place on the run-in.

Last Saturday, the same combination put on an almost perfect display of jumping at Sandown to win the Whitbread Gold Cup.

The only flaw in the performance came when the horse made a terrible blunder at the first of the railway fences second time round. Landau, on his way out of the side door, grabbed desperately at a breastplate, but somehow survived.

"Even before the race I was confident I was going to win," Landau said. "I had ridden him out every day since the National and he seemed very well. All Stan Mellor said was: 'You know the horse, just ride him how you think best.'"

Mullins in form again

From our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

Paddy Mullins continues to carry off the big Punchestown prizes. On Wednesday, he provided 9-1 winner Darkon to upset Bayan Sunshine in the Tattersalls Gold Cup while yesterday, Grubel, an 8-1 chance, landed the Guinness Trophy Four-Year-Old Champion Hurdle.

This had looked a two-horse race between the English challenger Aldino (11-10 favourite) and the local star Classical Charm, who tried to lead all the way.

The gallop proved much too hot for Aldino, but Grubel joined Classical Charm at the second-last fence and won hand-

ling at Sandown on No-U-Turn, even though he had never schooled the horse. "I have not stopped learning since," he remarked, reflectively.

His first season, deliberately curtailed in order to retain his 7lb claim, brought him 13 winners. This term he is on 26, and has to ride only two more before he loses his 4lb claim. At the same stage in his career, Peter Scudamore's winners could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Landau has had an astonishingly successful first full season of racing, including winning the A T Cross Young Jockey of the Month award in February, and with his team's performance and the signs were encouraging for the future.

It is difficult to disagree with the manager. The Irish controlled the game throughout the first half and their first goal in their fourth match in the competition was scant reward for 45 minutes of totally committed football.

The twin strike force of Clarke, of Southampton, and Wilson, of Ipswich Town, gave promise of better things to come.

Bingham hinted there may be a September international against West Germany before the concluding two games in the

championship against Yugoslavia away (October 14) and Turkey at home (November 11).

Clarke put Northern Ireland ahead in the 39th minute. He then crashed a fierce drive against an upright, the ball rebounding to Clarke lurking just inside the area. He controlled the ball superbly and drove it wide of Ivkovic, a competent goalkeeper, into the corner of the net.

But the second half was only two minutes old when the Irish transgressed just outside the penalty area and Stojkovic curled the ball over the wall and into the net high off an upright. Dunlop had no chance, nor could the part-time Irish League player be faulted when a flick header from the Yugoslav captain, Zlati Vujovic, following a corner, flashed into the net with some 12 minutes remaining.

He knew that in April his men would resemble troops

walking back from the front line, suffering either from the wounds of war or from battle fatigue. They were in no condition to take on opponents any more competent than the Turks, whose recent improvement has been little short of astonishing.

More than half of his outfield players (Hodde, Lineker, Mabbutt, Bryan Robson, Sanderson and Waddle) were far from fully fit. Indeed, Sanderson, protected and rested by Arsenal during the last few weeks, is to have an operation today in an attempt to remove his protracted pelvic complaint.

"We were showing the signs of wear and tear after a long, hard season," Robson said. "That is why I didn't want us to be playing Yugoslavia this week. As it is, we did well not to lose. I would have been

eminently satisfied with a 1-0 victory."

Although he agreed that the goalless draw was "a slight disappointment" — particularly in view of Yugoslavia's win in Belfast — two individual performances delighted him. Within 90 minutes, he learned that he has a goalkeeper who is a more-than-capable deputy and an answer to his central defensive problem.

As well as handling with ease the three shots that came his way, Woods looked a comfortably commanding figure in his area. He is now ready to step out of the shadow of Shilton, a 37-year-old who is unsettled at Southampton and approaching the end of his career.

Mabbutt emerged as a potentially perfect foil for

England to ask for Wrexham

By Ian Ross

Mike England will next week ask the Welsh Football Association to allow the crucial European championship qualifying game against Denmark in September to be played at Wrexham's Racecourse Ground. England, the Welsh team manager, is adamant that his side's chances of progressing through to next year's European championship finals in West Germany will be enhanced if the game is played at the small stadium — a venue where Wales have not been beaten during his seven years in charge.

However, the indications are that the Welsh governing body, when they meet on May 5, will reject his appeals just as they did in September, 1985, when the World Cup qualifying game against Scotland was held at Cardiff against the wishes of both the manager and the players.

"We believe that by playing what will obviously be a vital game at Wrexham we will stand a far better chance of winning," England said.

With the prospect of another massive pay day if the game is played in Cardiff — the Scotland tie netted approximately £400,000 — the fear is that England may once again find himself overruled.

Wednesday night's 1-1 draw with Czechoslovakia, coupled with group six, which writes Denmark's 1-0 win in Finland, saw Wales depose as leaders, but England remains confident about his side's chances.

"We are still in with a chance, but by dropping a point in midweek it means that we will have to beat Denmark at home and win one of our two remaining away games," he said.

England revealed that no fewer than four of the side he fielded on Wednesday night were playing with injuries.

"Van Den Hauwe, James, Nicholas and Slater were not 100 per cent," he said. "We only had one full day in which to prepare as opposed to the three weeks of uninterrupted preparation Czechoslovakia enjoyed. I think the day must surely come when the English League game is suspended on the Saturday before international games."

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walking back from the front line, suffering either from the wounds of war or from battle fatigue. They were in no condition to take on opponents any more competent than the Turks, whose recent improvement has been little short of astonishing.

Robson awaits League ruling to stop club games before Yugoslavia match

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

England's destiny in the European championship qualifying series now lies as much in the hands of the domestic authorities as in Belgrade. Bobby Robson feels that his side's preparations for the tie against Yugoslavia on November 11 will be as crucial and potentially decisive as the group four fixture itself.

Earlier this season he asked if the relevant first division games on the preceding Saturday could be postponed. On Wednesday night, he repeated his request for his squad to be allowed "that weekend off" and he is now waiting to hear whether it will be granted.

The matter will be put forward by the Football Association and discussed again by the Football League and yesterday a League spokesman could offer nothing more optimistic than to suggest that "it would be viewed sympathetically." In no other European country would there be an initial delay, let alone the need for second thoughts.

Robson accepts that "you cannot change our system", but he considers that in future, "the England manager should have a couple of international seasons in which we meet the opposition on their terms." On the Continent, weekend programmes before competitive ties are suspended automatically — often, even before friendly matches.

Since his team have recently been settled, successful and comparatively free of injury, the lack of time in which to practise has had little effect. But the troubles that came back to haunt Robson before and during the visit to Turkey have damaged England's prospects of reaching the finals.

He knew that in April his men would resemble troops



Bobby Robson, with players Anderson, Sansom, Beardsley, Woods and Adams, shows England's new Umbro kit, made from ICI Tactel, which makes its debut against Brazil on May 19; it has mandarin style collars and scarlet and blue trimmings (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

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More than half of his outfield players (Hodde, Lineker, Mabbutt, Bryan Robson, Sanderson and Waddle) were far from fully fit. Indeed, Sanderson, protected and rested by Arsenal during the last few weeks, is to have an operation today in an attempt to remove his protracted pelvic complaint.

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Mabbutt emerged as a potentially perfect foil for

Butcher. "He was excellent and so brave it was frightening," Robson said. "He covered for Adams and he used the ball well. I didn't miss Butcher and that is the best thing I could have said about him."

The absence of Beardsley was, as expected, the biggest loss. Although he has a torn hamstring, he has not yet been ruled out of next month's games against Brazil and Scotland. If he fails to recover, his replacement is more likely to be Halsey than the unfortunate Allen.

Although Robson conceded that the link between his chosen strike-force did not work, he stated that it would be "unfair to judge Allen on one game after one practise session." Yet, will he and his side be given more breathing space in November?

Even a victory tomorrow may not be enough for Liverpool, who have played one game more than Everton and who also have an inferior goal difference. Kenny Dalglish is unlikely to announce his starting line-up until shortly before kick-off, but with his squad severely reduced by injuries he would appear to have few options.

Nicol, the Scottish international defender, who has not played a senior game since undergoing a stomach muscle operation in mid-December, still has an outside chance of returning to action before the end of the season.

Kendall, who is poised to lead Everton to a second championship triumph in three seasons, said: "Last Saturday's defeat is behind us and we are looking forward to the weekend games. It is still very much in our own hands."

Reid, the England midfielder player, who would almost certainly have played in Turkey on Wednesday afternoon but for a shin injury sustained last Saturday, is now recovered and will play tomorrow.

Despite last weekend's reversal, Everton could be installed as the new English champions by Monday evening. If they win tomorrow and Liverpool lose against Coventry at Highfield Road, they require only draw at Carrow Road on Monday to ensure the title goes to Goodison Park.

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Bingham pleased despite defeat

By George Ace

Billy Bingham shrugged off Northern Ireland's 2-1 defeat at Windsor Park on Wednesday night by Yugoslavia in a group four, European championship game, saying that he was pleased with his team's performance and the signs were encouraging for the future.

It is difficult to disagree with the manager. The Irish controlled the game throughout the first half and their first goal in their fourth match in the competition was scant reward for 45 minutes of totally committed football.

The twin strike force of Clarke, of Southampton, and Wilson, of Ipswich Town, gave promise of better things to come.

Bingham hinted there may be a September international against West Germany before the concluding two games in the

championship against Yugoslavia away (October 14) and Turkey at home (November 11).

Clarke put Northern Ireland ahead in the 39th minute. He then crashed a fierce drive against an upright, the ball rebounding to Clarke lurking just inside the area. He controlled the ball superbly and drove it wide of Ivkovic, a competent goalkeeper, into the corner of the net.

But the second half was only two minutes old when the Irish transgressed just outside the penalty area and Stojkovic curled the ball over the wall and into the net high off an upright. Dunlop had no chance, nor could the part-time Irish League player be faulted when a flick header from the Yugoslav captain, Zlati Vujovic, following a corner, flashed into the net with some 12 minutes remaining.

He knew that in April his men would resemble troops

walking back from the front line, suffering either from the wounds of war or from battle fatigue. They were in no condition to take on opponents any more competent than the Turks, whose recent improvement has been little short of astonishing.

Molby's goal could prove crucial

A goal direct from a free kick by John Molby, of Liverpool, was enough to give Denmark a 1-0 win over Finland in Helsinki, and the lead in group six of the qualifying tournament for the European championship.

Finland's 1-0 defeat in Athens means they will struggle to qualify from group five, especially as The Netherlands beat Hungary 2-0 in Rotterdam. Another Arsenal star, the former Ipswich midfielder player, clinched Holland's victory with a spectacular second-half shot.

The defending champions, France, gained their first victory in group three at the expense of Iceland, by 2-0, but still have little hope of making next year's finals as the Soviet Union beat East Germany by the same score. The big game in group one ended with Romania 3-1 winners over Spain in Bucharest. Both teams now have six points from four games.

Everton's title march hit by Sheedy injury

By Ian Ross

Everton's bid to complete the seizure of Liverpool's League crown was hit by an almost inevitable set-back yesterday. Kevin Sheedy, the Republic of Ireland international, has already been ruled out of tomorrow's home game against troubled Manchester City and Monday's Bank Holiday trip to Norwich City.

Sheedy, who scored Everton's only goal in last weekend's Merseyside derby defeat at Anfield, is still troubled by fluid on the knee, a problem which forced him to withdraw from the Republic of Ireland squad for Wednesday night's European championship qualifier against Belgium. Sheedy went on to have a cartilage operation in late January and has only recently returned to the first team.

"Kevin is still suffering from some discomfort and will miss both matches," Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, said. "Obviously, this is bitterly disappointing for us because we rate him very highly indeed. I remain very hopeful that he will be available for our last two League games."

Reid, the England midfielder player, who would almost certainly have played in Turkey on Wednesday afternoon but for a shin injury sustained last Saturday, is now recovered and will play tomorrow.

Despite last weekend's reversal, Everton could be installed as the new English champions by Monday evening. If they win tomorrow and Liverpool lose against Coventry at Highfield Road, they require only draw at Carrow Road on Monday to ensure the title goes to Goodison Park.

Even a victory tomorrow may not be enough for Liverpool, who have played one game more than Everton and who also have an inferior goal difference. Kenny Dalglish is unlikely to announce his starting line-up until shortly before kick-off, but with his squad severely reduced by injuries he would appear to have few options.

Nicol, the Scottish international defender, who has not played a senior game since undergoing a stomach muscle operation in mid-December, still has an outside chance of returning to action before the end of the season.

Kendall, who is poised to lead Everton to a second championship triumph in three seasons, said: "Last Saturday's defeat is behind us and we are looking forward to the weekend games. It is still very much in our own hands."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CHESHAM: Essex v Warwickshire.
CANTERBURY: Kent v Gloucestershire.
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Middlesex.
THE OVAL: Surrey v Derbyshire.
MOVIE: Sussex v Gloucestershire.

OTHER MATCHES
11.30 to 5.30 or 6.0
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Northamptonshire.
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire.

Second XI Championship
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Somerset.
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire.
LEEDS: Yorkshire v Northamptonshire.

HANDBALL
SCOTTISH NATIONAL LEAGUE (Amateur): Vull and Dudd Salford v Tyrie (8.0).

VOLLEYBALL
ROYAL DANC NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Essex v Portsmouth Hazelet v Potom (8.30).

OTHER SPORT
BOXING: George Wemyss ASA Finals (at Torbay).
CYCLING: English Fifties classic (at Torbay).
GOLF: WPGA Ford classic (at Woburn).
KARATE: European championships (at Edinburgh arena, Glasgow).
SHOCKER: Embassy world professional championship (at Sheffield).
SQUASH: Rackets: Leeds Metro open championship (at Sheffield, 8.0).
TABLE TENNIS: English v China (at Black Lion SC, Gillingham, Kent).
TENNIS: LTA tournament (at Sutton).
WEIGHTLIFTING: Moscow International tournament (at Crystal Palace).

AMATEUR BOXING: George Wemyss ASA championships, Woburn Arena, BBC1, 10.25pm

TENNIS

Lendl can find no cracks in the door

From Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Hamburg

Ivan Lendl, the world No. 1, reached the last of the German championships here yesterday but was locked out of the mandatory Press conference that should have ensued. The players have lavish new two-story quarters (built in seven months at a cost of more than £1 million) which include a unisex hairdressing salon, a nursery — and a door leading to the conference room. When Lendl turned up the door could not be opened. Eventually, he decided to have a late lunch instead.

Players have to attend conferences only if requested by the Press. The leading players are always in demand, but, frankly, a few of them would be no great loss in a situation like yesterday's. Lendl's "laugh" is a different matter. Far more genial off-court than he is on it, Lendl enjoys the two-way banter as much as the Press do. Some decent cuts had been fixed up yesterday. It was a pity they were wasted.

Lendl beat Jan Gunnarsson 6-2, 6-1. They had only two totally sound knees between them. One of Lendl's recently underwent surgery and one of Gunnarsson's has never quite recovered from practising with Bjorn Borg in 1979. Obviously, they did not have much of a match.

However, there was time to note how finicky Lendl can be about detail and neatness. His turn-out is immaculate except for the hair (which he cannot see) and he repeatedly commences with his racket strings and knocks the shale off his shoes. Lendl seems to go through a mental check-up before every rally. As an Army NCO he would be bad news at kit inspections.

Gunnarsson, once ranked 25th, is now 48th. Other former more prominent Swedes have also dropped down the list: Anders Jarryd, Henrik Sundstrom and Joakim Nyström. On the other hand, Kent Carlsson, Mikael Persson, Ulf Stenlund and Jonas Svensson have moved up. The Swedish tide ebbs and flows. Until Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander have been constant. Yesterday, Nyström was beaten 7-6, 6-3, by Eduardo Bengoechea of Argentina, who is better known as "Bengo", but has found it difficult to become well-known for anything.

In two of the last three big events at the Grand Prix — the United States championships and the Lipton tournament at Key Biscayne — Lendl and Miloslav Mečíř have contested the men's singles final. That is scheduled to happen here too. Yesterday Mečíř won 7-6, 6-3 against Milan Štebánek, his Davis Cup team-mate, who had two set points in the tie-break.

At 6ft 7in, Štebánek is the tallest player on the circuit. His first service is a very effective weapon, but his size 13½ shoes tend to produce foot faults. Štebánek's extensive reach when charging the net instilled on a precision that Mečíř's lobs and passing shots could seldom attain in the first set.

In the second game of the second set Mečíř played two winning lobs that were measured to an inch — and reacted by bouncing up and down with joy. If you know your Mečíř, your customary meek has an insouciant aristocratic dignity, you will appreciate that he was indulging in an emotional outburst not far short of hysteria. Like the A-Team of the television series, Mečíř savours the moment when a plan "comes together".

RESULTS: Third round: M Mečíř (CZ) vs M Štebánek (CZ), 7-6, 6-3; E Bengoechea (ARG) vs J Nyström (SWE), 7-6, 6-3; Lendl (CZ) vs J Gunnarsson (SWE), 6-2, 6-1; E Bengoechea (ARG) vs J Nyström (SWE), 7-6, 6-3; M Persson (SWE) vs J Stenlund (SWE), 6-4, 6-2; J Svensson (SWE) vs J Stenlund (SWE), 6-4, 6-2.

Second round: M Mečíř (CZ) vs J Nyström (SWE), 7-6, 6-3; E Bengoechea (ARG) vs J Nyström (SWE), 7-6, 6-3; Lendl (CZ) vs J Gunnarsson (SWE), 6-2, 6-1; E Bengoechea (ARG) vs J Nyström (SWE), 7-6, 6-3; M Persson (SWE) vs J Stenlund (SWE), 6-4, 6-2; J Svensson (SWE) vs J Stenlund (SWE), 6-4, 6-2.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-32, 3-71, 4-

CRICKET

Miller narrowly misses steering Middlesex to safety at Old Trafford

By Richard Streeton

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire lead Middlesex by 209 runs

Andrew Miller, who missed a century by three runs, was the only Middlesex batsman to stay long yesterday when they replied to Lancashire's 453 for 9 declared. After Mendis made the season's first double hundred, Middlesex struggled, and were dismissed for 244, just before the close, and almost certainly will be asked to follow-on today.

Miller's sound stroke play and phlegmatic temperament over four hours were impressive as Middlesex struggled in poor light. He and Slack began confidently but once Slack was run out, Lancashire imposed increasing control. Hayhurst had Gattling and Carr caught behind and though Roseberry stayed 25 overs, he was always chafing at the bit and finally drove Simmons to mid-on.

Miller became bogged down in the 90s and eventually drove a catch to mid-on against McLeod. Lancashire's West Indian fast bowler, Downton was then caught at slip and McLeod went on to make the follow-on inevitable by dismissing Edmonds and Hughes. McLeod was signed

Students' struggle continues

By Geoffrey Wheeler

Those who argue the time has come for Oxford and Cambridge Universities to be deprived of first-class status have their case strengthened by another day of struggle from undergraduate batsmen at The Parks and Fenner's.

Oxford, replying to Hampshire's 312 for five declared, did manage to keep the county side in the field for most of the day — albeit with the help of stoppages for rain and bad light. Russell Morris, the new recruit, looked promising and reached 31 before Lowley's off spin trapped the batsman before playing no stroke — in his first delivery.

Crawley, who bagged a pair in his first match against Kent, took that misfortune behind him with a stubborn 58, extending his side's total to 176 by the time he was last out. Hampshire decided against imposing the follow-on and will start today 177 ahead with all second-innings wickets in hand.

The early loss of Atherton, the one batsman so far to pass 50 for Cambridge this season, ruled out a serious challenge to the Northamptonshire first innings of 236 for eight declared. The University's top scorer was Clitheroe, the wicketkeeper — who made 36 on his debut — but in spite of his effort, the students were all out for 148, having failed to exceed 150 for the fifth time in six completed innings.

Bailey and Wild, the county opened, then showed how should be done with a rapid, unbroken partnership of 141, so that at the close Northamptonshire led by 239.

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Oxford Univ v Hants
The Parks: Hampshire, with all second innings wickets in hand, led Oxford University by 177 runs.

Northamptonshire first innings 236 for eight declared. The University's top scorer was Clitheroe, the wicketkeeper — who made 36 on his debut — but in spite of his effort, the students were all out for 148, having failed to exceed 150 for the fifth time in six completed innings.

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who made two double centuries for Sussex, batted for 465 minutes. Since the War, only Washbrook, on four occasions, the last time in 1952, and Clive Lloyd (1971), have made 200 for Lancashire in the championship at Old Trafford.

Earlier, Hughes's decision to continue the Lancashire innings was predictable on this lifeless pitch, thus committing his bowlers to dismissing Middlesex twice, although he also knew he could be helped by occasional showers if the forecasters were right.

Lancashire batted another 75 minutes for 74 runs and lost six wickets in the hunt for quick runs. Daniel, with four wickets, benefitted among the Middlesex bowlers, his victims including O'Shaughnessy and Hughes in successive overs, as each tried to cut.

Mendis gave his first chance at 195, when Slack dropped him at deep mid-wicket off Fraser and he was almost left stranded on 199. McLeod ran himself out trying to give Mendis a second run and then Stanworth, the last man, had his pads rapped from his first ball.

Mendis in Daniel's net over survived a leg-before appeal and then hooked the next ball for his 24th four and Lancashire declared. Mendis, who made two double centuries for Sussex, batted for 465 minutes. Since the War, only Washbrook, on four occasions, the last time in 1952, and Clive Lloyd (1971), have made 200 for Lancashire in the championship at Old Trafford.

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Forgettable day for Glamorgan

By Ivo Tennant

CANTERBURY: Glamorgan, with eight second innings wickets in hand, are 218 runs behind Kent.

Kent's attack may be short of four Test bowlers — Dilley, Alderman and, for the present, Baptiste and Ellison — but it was good enough to make Glamorgan struggle all day. The follow-on was enforced and when bad light ended play at 5.15, Glamorgan needed a further 218 runs to make Kent bat again.

Batting yesterday was an onerous task. The light was murky, the ball came through more quickly, seamed and swung, and the pitch was livened up a little by a five minute shower.

It was not Underwood who was then given the ball. The soft bowlers continued, realising the fears of those — Botham and Fletcher included — who argue that leaving pitches uncovered will lead to less, rather than more, spin.

When Underwood belatedly came on, he took two wickets in an over. But by then, Glamorgan had lost eight wickets. Igglesden made the ball jump around and looked as quick as Thomas did on the first day. Kent are not tampering with Igglesden's over-the-hill, having dismissed Dilley, who was out of the side with a conflicting advice at the same stage of his career.

Not one Glamorgan batsman looked comfortable. Kent took some good catches, especially one by Benson at gully that removed Holmes. Plenty went the way of the slips.

Kent enforced the follow-on and Glamorgan soon lost Morris to a brute of a ball from Igglesden. Butcher went to a

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

08.5-116, 6-118, 7-141, 8-150, 9-151.
BOWLING: Cantrell 19-2-12, Cowley 19-2-38-4, Tremlett 11-3-28-4, Andrews 14-2-26-2, James 14-2-28-0, May 17-10-30-1.
Extras: 10 (b 3, lb 3, w 1, nc 3).
Umpires: A. Jones and M. J. Kitchen.

Cambridge Univ v Northamptonshire

FENNER'S: Northamptonshire won toss. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE first innings 236 for eight declared. The University's top scorer was Clitheroe, the wicketkeeper — who made 36 on his debut — but in spite of his effort, the students were all out for 148, having failed to exceed 150 for the fifth time in six completed innings.

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Victory jig: Scarborough's chairman Terry Wood celebrates his club's promotion

Chairman claims full-timers are a luxury in fourth division

Scarborough determined to usher in new part-time era

By Paul Newman

Scarborough, the first club to win automatic promotion into the Football League since its formation 99 years ago, are hoping to lead the game into a new era.

The Yorkshire club's chairman, Terry Wood, whose team won the GM Vauxhall Conference championship and this season's new prize of promotion when Burnley failed to beat

Stafford Rangers on Wednesday night, said yesterday: "I want to make sure that we employ full-time players in the fourth division. There will soon be clubs going bankrupt every other week if they don't change."

Even the Scarborough manager, Neil Warnock, a self-employed chiropractor, is likely to stay part-time. "I'm a firm believer in semi-professional football," he said. "I think you get much better value at Conference games in terms of quality of football and excitement than at some League matches. When professional players of limited ability train all week it's not surprising that they lose some of their originality. You can do too much coaching."

Scarborough believe they can satisfy the strict stadium and financial criteria which the League have set in order for the Conference champions to be promoted. Their 10,000-capacity ground, which boasts a 1,000-seat stand built at a cost of £270,000 eight years ago, is already better equipped than many in the fourth division and they are ready to raise the £250,000 which will be needed for new turnstiles and fences.

The League are also insisting that promoted Conference clubs have a share capital of £100,000, which many of their own clubs do not have. Scarborough currently have £27,000 issued and say they have sufficient reserves to meet the deficit.

For many years they have been one of the most profitable clubs in non-League football. Scarborough have a great tradition of cup success — they played at Wembley in the FA Trophy final four times in the 1970s — but their last League championship was in 1963, when the present chairman played in the team that won the old North Eastern League.

The 1980s have been a quiet period in their 109-year history, with gates going down from an average of 2,224 seven years ago to 666 last season, last week.

Cathrine Schroder, of Norway, made an astonishing start to her Women's PGA career when she won the first round of the Ford Classic, on the Duke's course at Woburn Golf and Country Club yesterday.

The six-run shot which she holed at the 12th helped Miss Schroder to a 73, which left her only four shots behind Penny Grice-Whitaker and Corina Dihnath, of Australia, who shared the halfway lead with 9-under par scores of 141.

Miss Schroder is one of only two professionals in Norway

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It is likely to prove a highly profitable decision, especially as Miss Schroder, a personable blue-eyed blonde, has already attracted sponsorship which includes being supported by La Quinta Timeshare at the La Manga club in southern Spain, where she is able to practice.

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Miss Schroder is one of only two professionals in Norway

Card of course

Hole 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Voyage around a madam

CHOICE

I feared that Personal Services - The Making of a Celebrity (BBC2, 10.20pm) would be yet another plug for the best publicised movie of 1987, but it is stranger than that and more ambitious. Strange, because the programme lasts only 20 minutes and gives the impression of a larger project that got shoehorned. Ambitious, because it tries to explore deeper reasons for the intense public interest in the Madam of Streatham, Cynthia Payne ("played" in the film by Julie Walters). The lady herself maintains that men want sex and women want money and all she was doing was putting the two together. Terry Jones, director of Personal Services, is interviewed for the 1,087th time and, not surprisingly, struggles to say any-

thing fresh. That leaves the way clear for the Beeb's resident psychiatrist, Professor Anthony Clare, to pontificate about Freud and male urges. Clare is such a marvellous screen performer it is a wonder Terry Jones did not sign him up for the movie.

● About After Dark (Channel 4, midnight) we must all be in the dark, since it is both live and open ended. Based on an Austrian example, it is a superior chat show in which burning issues are thrashed out to the death. Tonight's topic is "Secrecy" and the thrashers are Clive Ponting, Peter Hain and former Army intelligence officer Colin Wallace.

Peter Waymark

● Peter Davalle writes: The June Knox-Mawer interview series Father and Daughter (Radio 4, 4.05pm), although only a week old, has already hit the target bang in the centre with its exploration of the relationship between Sheila Lockhead and her sister, Ramsay MacDonald, Labour's first incumbent in No 10. It's the little touches that matter - father telling daughter she must get her stockings straight when speaking at public meetings and that, to save leather, she must take off her shoes on stony roads; father playing records of My ain folk over the breakfast porridge. And daughter, representing father at a get-together in the Berlin chancellery, pouring tea for Hitler because his own hands were shaking so much.



Ramsay MacDonald: on Radio 4, 4.05pm

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALSLEY: 6.35pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.35-7.00pm Sportsday 7.00-7.25pm News and weather 7.25-7.50pm 10.50pm-1.00pm Newsnight 1.00-1.30pm 1.30-1.55pm 1.55-2.00pm 2.00-2.15pm 2.15-2.30pm 2.30-2.45pm 2.45-2.55pm 2.55-3.00pm 3.00-3.15pm 3.15-3.30pm 3.30-3.45pm 3.45-3.55pm 3.55-4.00pm 4.00-4.15pm 4.15-4.30pm 4.30-4.45pm 4.45-4.55pm 4.55-5.00pm 5.00-5.15pm 5.15-5.30pm 5.30-5.45pm 5.45-5.55pm 5.55-6.00pm 6.00-6.15pm 6.15-6.30pm 6.30-6.45pm 6.45-6.55pm 6.55-7.00pm 7.00-7.15pm 7.15-7.30pm 7.30-7.45pm 7.45-7.55pm 7.55-8.00pm 8.00-8.15pm 8.15-8.30pm 8.30-8.45pm 8.45-8.55pm 8.55-9.00pm 9.00-9.15pm 9.15-9.30pm 9.30-9.45pm 9.45-9.55pm 9.55-10.00pm 10.00-10.15pm 10.15-10.30pm 10.30-10.45pm 10.45-10.55pm 10.55-11.00pm 11.00-11.15pm 11.15-11.30pm 11.30-11.45pm 11.45-11.55pm 11.55-12.00pm 12.00-12.15pm 12.15-12.30pm 12.30-12.45pm 12.45-12.55pm 12.55-1.00pm 1.00-1.15pm 1.15-1.30pm 1.30-1.45pm 1.45-1.55pm 1.55-2.00pm 2.00-2.15pm 2.15-2.30pm 2.30-2.45pm 2.45-2.55pm 2.55-3.00pm 3.00-3.15pm 3.15-3.30pm 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